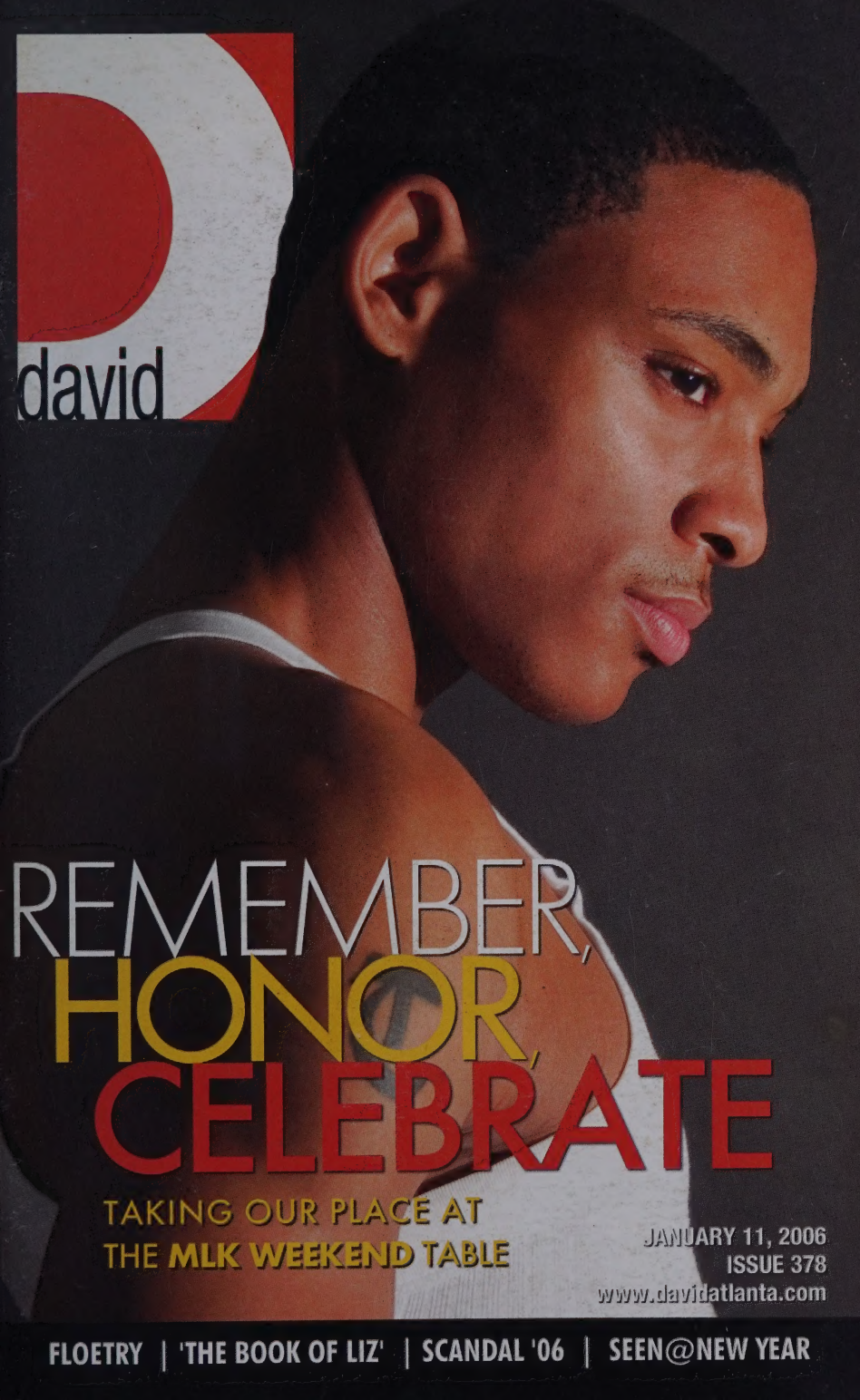
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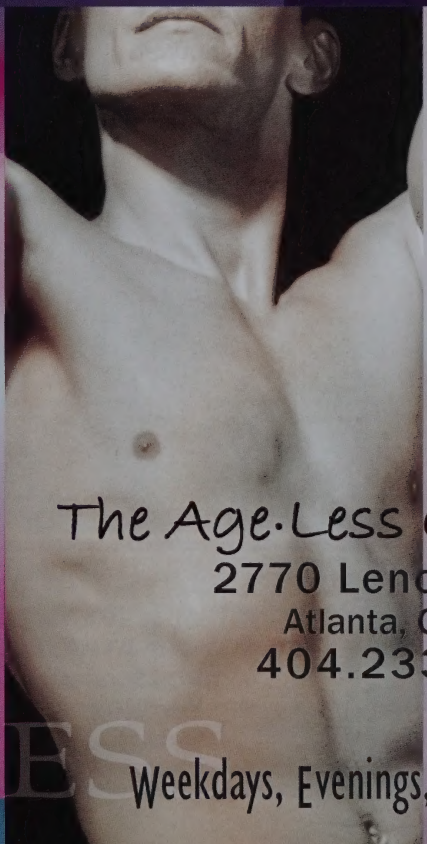

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ABOUT THE COVER: Tyrique photo by Trevor Green

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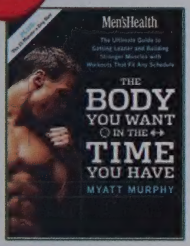

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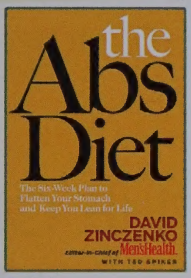

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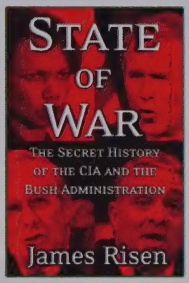

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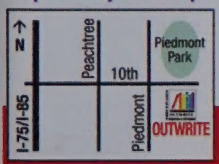

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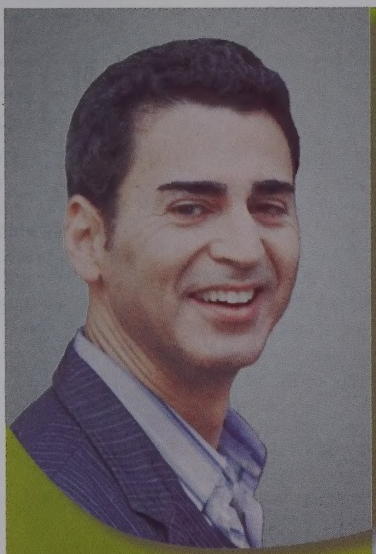

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EDITOR'S NOTE

PREDICTING THE FUTURE

Queer séance reveals a **scandalous '06**

LAST YEAR, OUR DEAR FRIEND MADAME Christina sent us a crystal ball for telling the future of gossip in 2005. We were thrilled with the experience, but there were blaring inaccuracies.

So for this year, Christina suggested using the ball in another technique: a séance that takes advantage of the spiritual power more people can bring.

We joined hands around the ball and were led through a trance. We called upon a spirit known as Fifi Drag Queen of Heaven to make predictions for 2006. The mighty spirit speaks here through us — without any regard, of course, for the truth.

Politics

• In the spring of 2006, when the president's approval rating slips further into the depths of misery, Condoleeza Rice finally comes to her senses and joins her Sapphic sisters in the dance of womanly love. The Secretary of State arrives at a state dinner topless and riding a Harley.

In a fit of bipartisan fervor, she gets former Attorney General Janet Reno to join her on the hog, and the pair speed into the night.

• Groups of queer revolutionaries spring up in cities around the world. They call themselves the Mary Maccabees, after the ancient Jewish resistance fighters of the Old Testament. They kidnap world leaders and supplant them with gay rulers who usher in an age of peace, beauty and unparalleled egalitarianism and fabulosity.

• Transgender people and their stories come to the forefront of the nation's collective consciousness, causing non-inclusive gay men and lesbians to feel ashamed of their arrogance.

Entertainment.

• Cher embarks on yet another farewell tour, astonishing audiences with her disturbing youthful but immobile face.

• "Brokeback Mountain" wins the Oscar for best picture, and the entire state of Wyoming becomes a gay theme park, replete with Colt models and rhinestone-studded cowboy boots as far as the eye can see. Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhall finally admit they made a gay movie and stop using cheap platitudes aimed at luring straight audiences.

• Mel Gibson is revealed as president of an international S&M organization, thereby explaining "The Passion of the Christ" — or what the inner circle calls the film: "Beating Up Jesus."

• Bloggers stumble upon rap star 50 Cent's Manhunt.net ad: "Voracious bottom seeks thug top. Into prison scenes." When the New York Times sends an undercover reporter to his home in Connecticut, hip-hop star Usher answers the door wearing a ball gag. The cameras flash and careers are ruined.

• Vapid beauty Paris Hilton comes out as a lesbian. Gays everywhere throw ashes over their heads in the biblical gesture of shame.

Religion

• Gay icon Madonna dives deeper into Kabbalah and markets more inane accessories to the star-worshipping public. She appears to be a cheap imitation of a mystic, but she actually ascends into the heavens much like her namesake, the Virgin Mother. Gay men everywhere rejoice, knowing they were always right about her divine nature.

• A Church of Scientology scandal erupts when a smutty video escapes the clutches of a certain closeted film star. In the home video, an orgy rivaling the filming of "Caligula" is depicted.

People are rolling over one another in a sea of human effluvium, man-on-man, woman-on-woman, man-on-woman. Finally, the simpering Scientologists get their comeuppance, and all of Hollywood comes out of the closet in a rash of gay liberation.

So spoke the great Fifi Drag Queen of Heaven, far-fetched patron of queers across the globe.

2006 is gonna be out of hand. Send your predictions to MFleming@davidatlanta.com.

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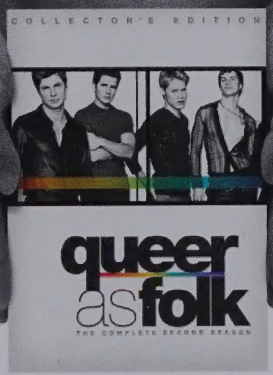

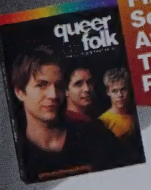

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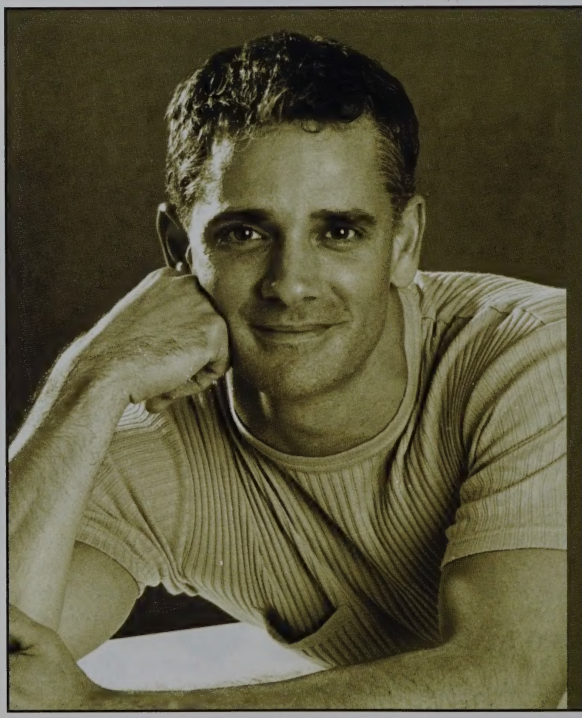

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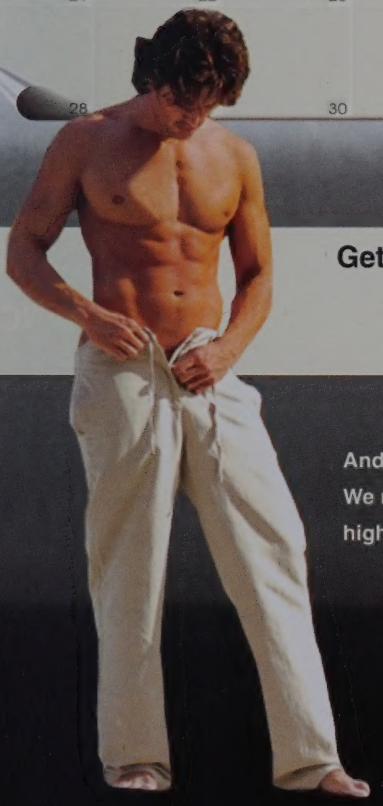

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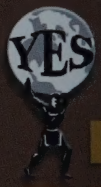

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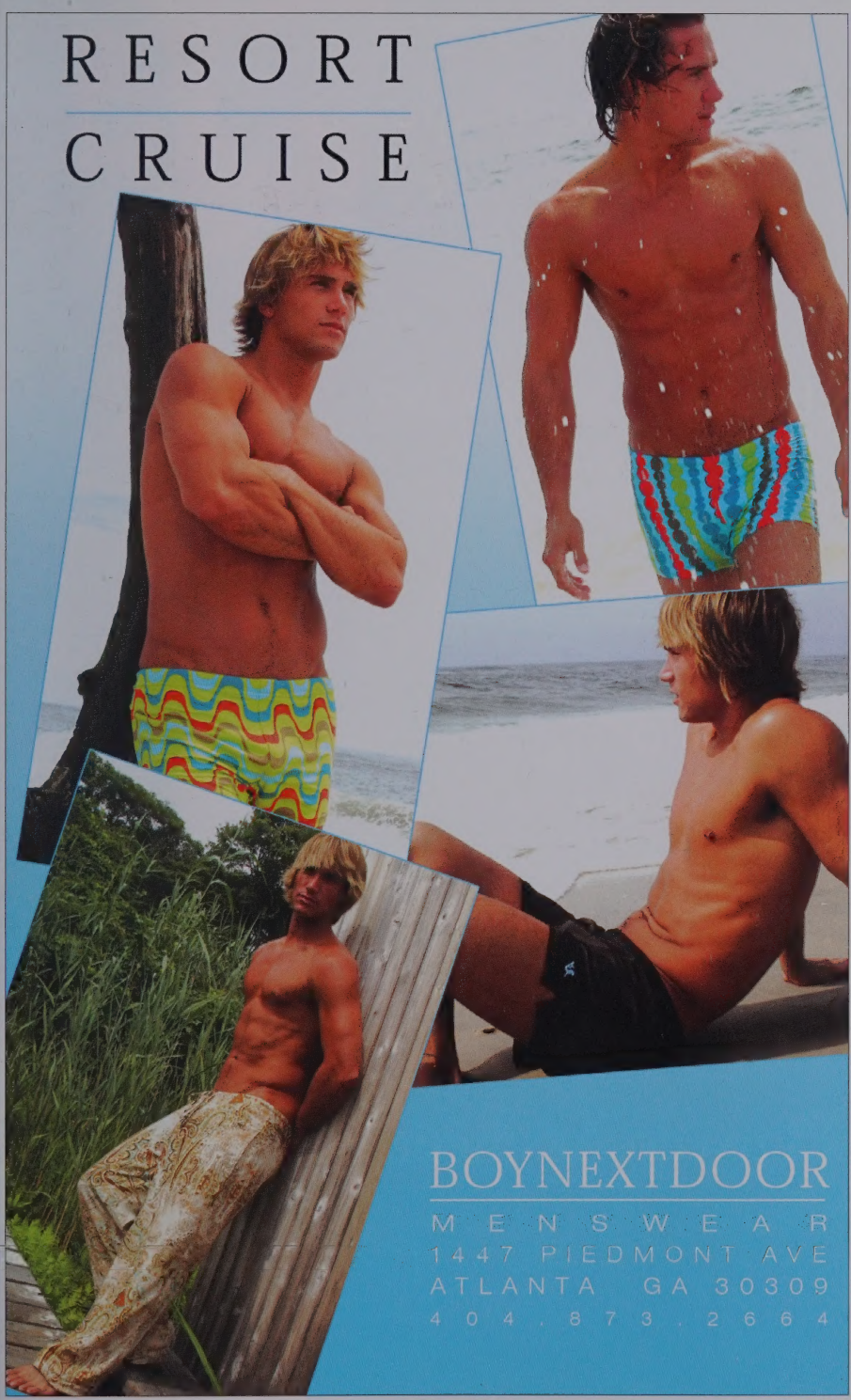

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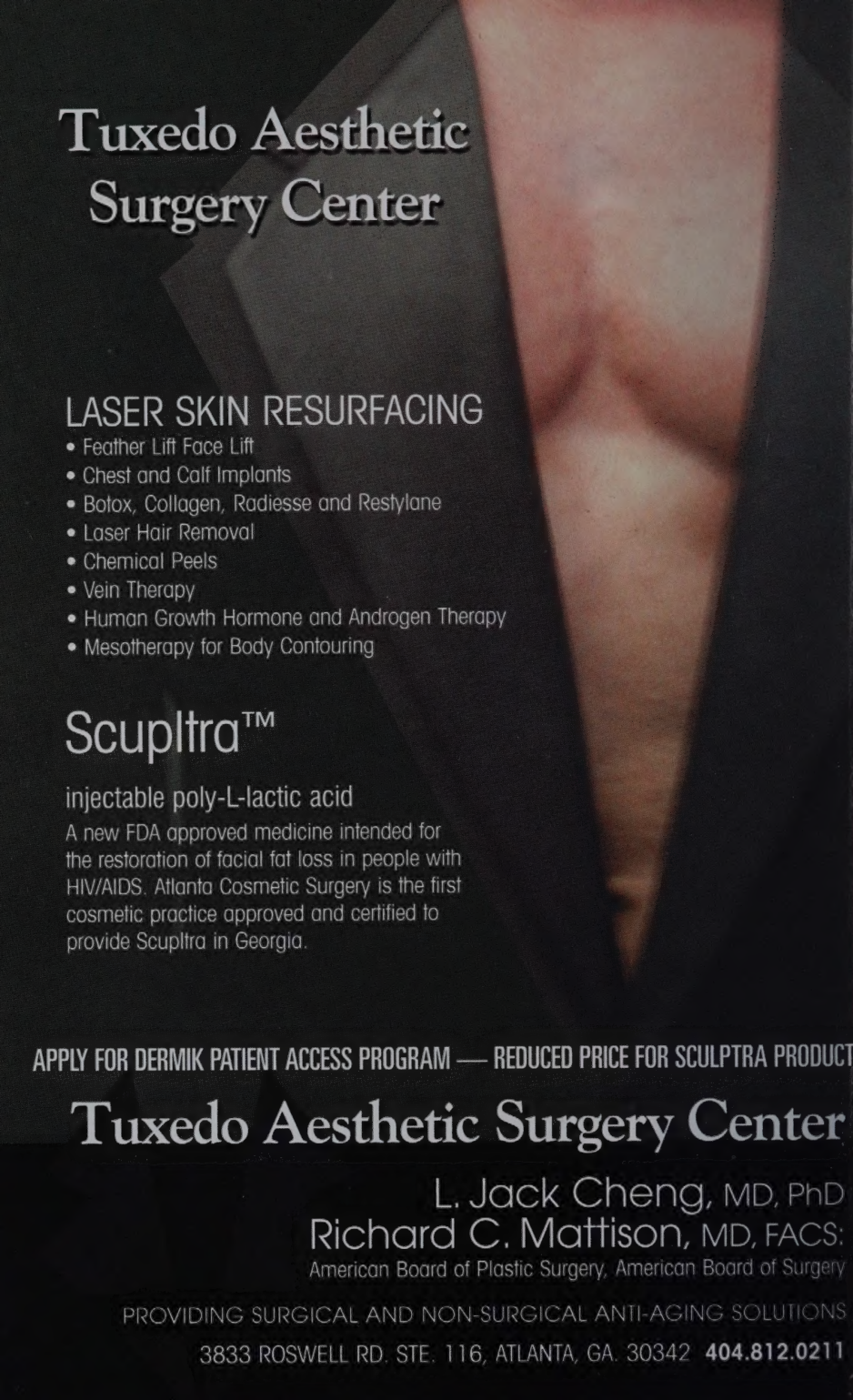
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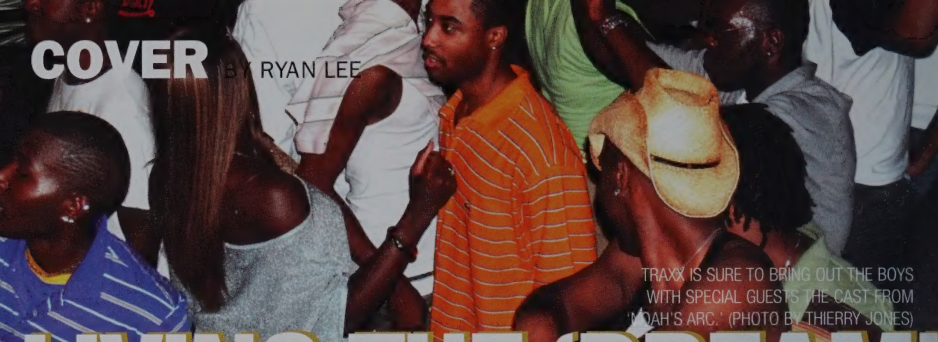

TRAXX IS SURE TO BRING OUT THE BOYS WITH SPECIAL GUESTS THE CAST FROM 'NOAH'S ARC.' (PHOTO BY THIERRY JONES)

LIVING THE 'DREAM'

Atlanta gears up to celebrate **MLK weekend**

THOUSANDS OF GAY MEN ARE GOING TO LET freedom ring throughout Atlanta during Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday weekend, with dozens of special parties scheduled for the four-day holiday.

Party promoters and clubs go all-out for MLK Weekend, bringing in special guests from strippers and hip hop groups, from radio personalities to TV stars.

Think Black Gay Pride without the pretense of seminars.

There are a few socially conscious events like In The Life Atlanta's series honoring Bayard Rustin, the gay civil rights guru who helped shaped MLK's non-violent worldview and was one of the organizers of the infamous "I Have A Dream" march. Events include the annual Bayard Rustin Brunch on Jan. 16, which precedes the gay contingent joining the annual citywide march.

But the highlight of the weekend is the plethora of King-sized parties to start 2006 off on the right note.

"Atlanta and MLK weekend will always have a special relationship," says Apache, part of the promotional crew WassupnATL.

"Outside of Labor Day, it's one of the only holidays that so many people either stay, or come, to Atlanta," he says. "It's only fitting that you would have a four-day party weekend."

WASSUPNATL HELPS KICK OFF THE WEEKEND on Thursday, Jan. 12 with a party at Club Miami on Buford Highway featuring the Atlanta underground rap group Trap Squad, who is on the verge of hitting the big time with their song "What's Happenin."

Also on Jan. 12, Ozonentertainment turns up the heat at Phase One in Decatur with a midnight male review — the first of many weekend parties featuring the sexiest strippers in the city — hosted by comedy drag queen and V-103 radio diva Miss Sophia McIntosh.

WassupnATL and Ozonentertainment join forces on Jan. 13 to host their popular Friday night set at Tower II, but an even more natural pair team up that same night across town.

That's when The Lion's Den party group prowls into Jungle for its "Friction" party. One can only imagine how much friction there's going to be with a club full of scantily clad go-go dancers mingling with the hip hop crowd.

MISS SOPHIA AND THE NAKED BOYS FROM Ozonentertainment strike again on Jan. 14, this time at Central Park Club & Bistro in Decatur, and WassupnATL has 10 dancers and a giveaway trip to New York on tap for its set at Phase One.

At Atlanta Live on Jan. 14, Traxx hosts its off-the-meter Saturday night party, with the cast from Logo's Noah's Arc attending as special guests.

ATLANTA LIVE IS ALSO THE SITE OF OVAH Productions' MLK weekend party on Jan. 15, where superstar DJ Tracy Young is set to pay tribute to MLK's legacy of liberation.

Traxx and Ozonentertainment team up with party promoter Reggie Thomas to bring more sexy dancers to Club 595 in Midtown on Jan. 15. At Club Miami, WassupnATL returns for another party and a Bahamas cruise giveaway courtesy partynplay.net, a new online cruising website that is sponsoring the party.

Keeping with King's spirit of peaceful fellowship, the Atlanta Alliance hosts the first ever MLK Unity Ball on Jan. 15 at the Rialto Theater. The free event features numerous Atlanta houses — groups of black gay men with a House Mother, House Father and children a la "Paris is Burning" — battling it out for cash prizes in such categories as vogueing, runway performance and fashion illusions.

Later that night, the House of Escada gives away more than $2,500 in cash prizes at its Synergy Ball at The Atrium in Stone Mountain.

SEE YOU THERE

THURSDAY JAN. 12

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'Reconcilable Sacrifices'
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404-607-0082

Ozonentertainment's 'Xtasy Thursday'
10 p.m., Phase One
4933 Memorial Dr., Decatur
678-296-0678

WassupnATL's 'Enter Bleu'
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3011 Buford Highway
404-929-9991

FRIDAY JAN. 13

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The Lion's Den 'Friction'
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TALK TO THE HAND: V103'S MISS SOPHIA APPEARS JAN. 12 AT PHASE ONE AND JAN. 14 AT CENTRAL PARK. (PHOTO BY RYAN LEE)

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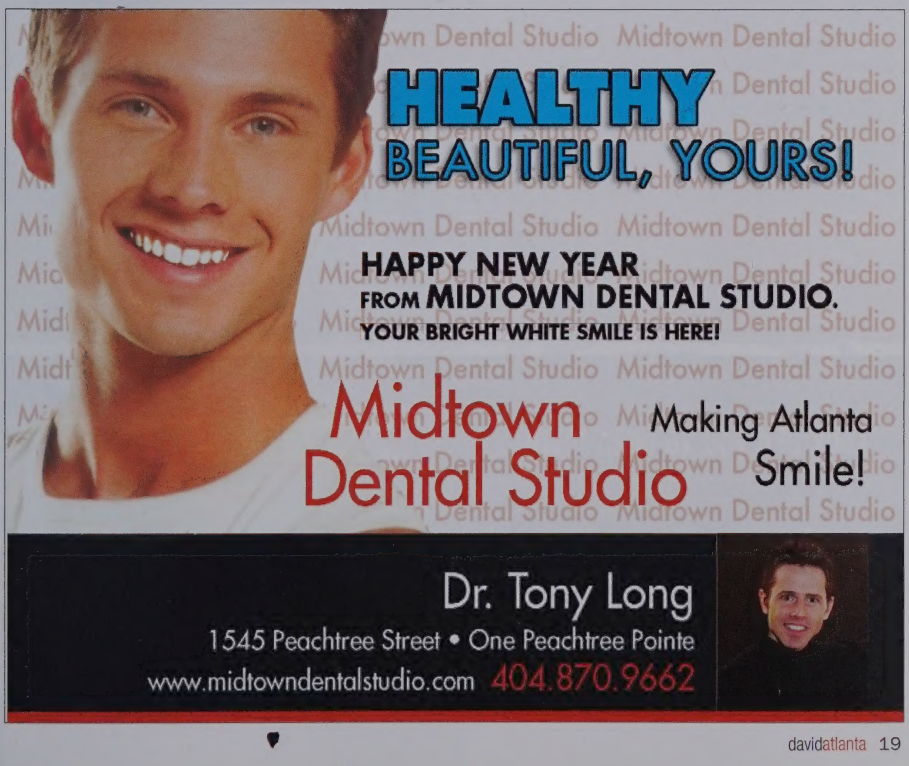

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Ask your healthcare provider about protection against VPH today. Vaccination is often covered by insurance. A list of community and public health clinics offering free or low-cost vaccination is available at www.hepclinics.com.

*VPH INCLUDES HEPATITIS A AND HEPATITIS B. HEPATITIS C IS NOT VACCINE PREVENTABLE.

For more information about upcoming vaccination clinics in Atlanta, call the Georgia AIDS and STD InfoLife at 800-551-2728.

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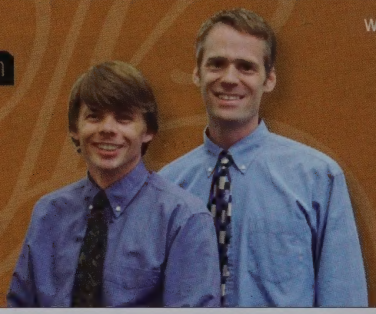

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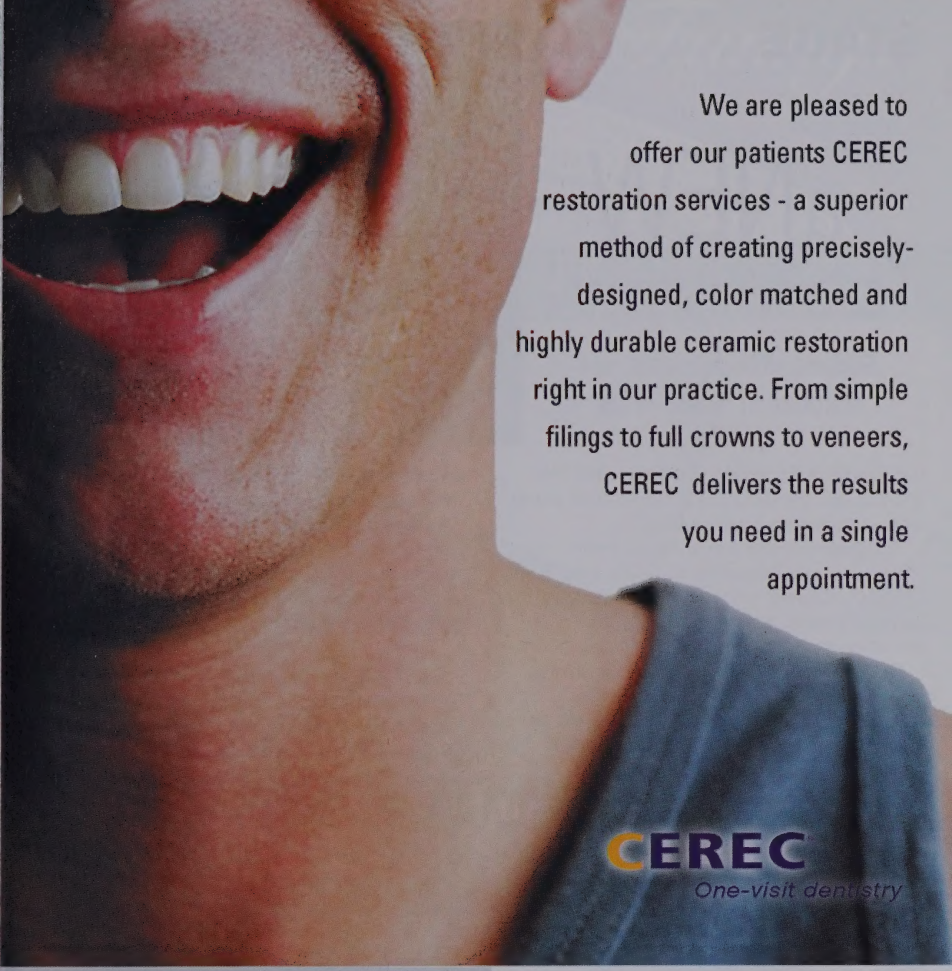
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STAGE BY JIMMY HILBURN

a NEW TESTAMENT

Sedaris siblings create new scripture in **'Book of Liz'**

DAVID AND AMY SEDARIS COULD GIVE THE Brontes and the Baldwins a run for their money when it comes to super siblings.

The brother-sister duo achieved their success mostly independently — he with "The Santaland Diaries" and numerous best-selling humor memoirs, and she on the off-kilter television series "Strangers With Candy."

But their play "The Book Of Liz" is unique because it marks one of the few instances where their talents merge. The play's writing credits list them, surely much to their own amusement, as "The Talent Family."

The wacky collaboration of "Liz" is receiving its regional premiere this month in The Essential Theatre's Power Plays, an annual festival in its 8th year.

"THE BOOK OF LIZ" IS AN ABSURDIST SATIRE concerning Sister Elizabeth Dunderstock, who leaves her reclusive religious community of Clusterhaven to pursue a life in the modern world.

Along the way, dear Liz encounters a woman with a peanut for a head, two quarrelling gay waiters at a pilgrim-themed restaurant and lots of cheeseballs — of the hors d'oeuvres variety.

It sounds more like one of Rose's St. Olaf stories from "The Golden Girls" than anything from the caustic mind of David Sedaris, but siblings have a habit of bringing out the weirdest in each other.

The Essential Theatre's Artistic Director Peter Hardy explains the mission of the Power Plays is, "to present Atlanta audiences with plays never before done in this area — either regional premieres or world premieres of work by Georgia playwrights."

"LIZ' RUNS IN REPERTORY WITH TWO LOCALLY written shows, "Charm School" by Larry Larson and Eddie Levi Lee (award-winning authors of "The Bench") and "Leaving Limbo" by Valetta Anderson.

Directed by Lee Nowell, "The Book Of Liz" features gay actor, playwright and *David* columnist Topher Payne along with Rachel Craw, Alex Van, Dede Bloodworth, Charles Swint and Kathleen Link.

Power Plays, the 2006 Essential Theatre Festival, runs Jan. 5-29 at the Backstage Theatre at 7 Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave., 404-523-7647. www.7stages.org

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MARCIA AMBROCIUS AND NATALIE STEWART, AKA FLOETRY, BRING ON THE SEXY ON 'FLO'OLOGY.'

GO WITH THE FLO'

British duo **Floetry** sets the mood on latest CD

IT'S RARE TO FIND A SUCCESSFUL BALANCE between catchy melodies and infectious rhythm. "Flo'Ology," the third album from the duo Floetry, is a solid R&B-spoken word effort, and offers a refreshing departure from the nearly naked, rump-shaking female pop and hip hop acts populating the charts.

Not to imply that the group consists of two prudes. The British duo — Marcia Ambrocius, the "songstress," and Natalie Stewart, the "floacist" — is fully capable of delivering heat, combining breathy poetry with an erotic vocal delivery.

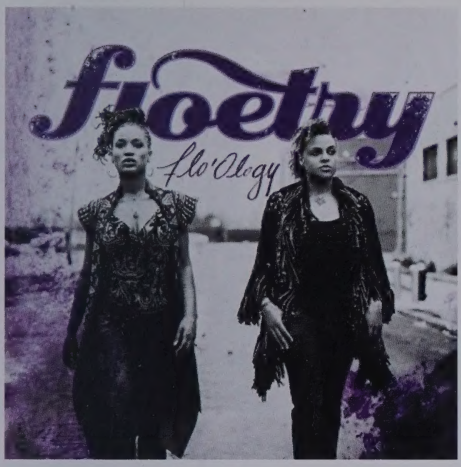
Their first album, 2002's "Floetic" delivered two hits: the title track, along with the harmonic ballad "Say Yes." The group also penned the enchanting pop tune "Butterflies" for Michael Jackson, and eventually released their own version of the song to critical acclaim.

Ambrocius and Stewart produced a few of the tracks on that album themselves and wrote or co-wrote all of them. With so many CDs being turned out by R&B and pop machines without any actual writing input from the artists, this is a rare feat on its own.

The duo followed the success of "Floetic" in 2003 with the live album "Floacism."

FLOETRY'S SUCCESS ATTRACTED SOME familiar R&B faces to the most recent project. Darren "limitless" Henson (producer for Will Smith, Li'l Kim and Jill Scott) and Raphael Saddiq (of Tony, Tone, Toni), along with a number of other producers, stir the pot on "Flo'Ology." The varying styles complement the talents of Floetry and still let the pair's style shine.

The first single, "SupaStar" featuring Common, is a good mid-tempo number reminiscent of some of Jill Scott's lighter moments. The rap stylings of Common are a clear counterpoint to Floetry's sultry stridency. Overall, the track is strong, but it does lapse



at points into an over-sung mess we'll call Beyoncé Syndrome.

A good choice for the next single is "Closer," which offers a nice backbeat with a spicy island flavor and a driving guitar line. The sound is unique and definitely worth a listen. To set a mood, queue it up in the car while you're rushing over to your boy's house.

"Lay Down" is a great track with a slow groove that works perfectly as a backdrop to some sensual intimacy. The cello beds and pleasant slow-building crescendo are a rapturous earful.

"I'll Die" is a blues-driven, mid-tempo number with an engaging textural interchange between spoken word poetry recited with hip-hop flair over a chorus of voices.

THE DISC DOES HAVE A FEW SHORTCOMINGS. It tends to alternate between ballads and mid-tempo songs with only a couple tracks that kick fast enough to get the pulse really pumping. The whispered sexual growl on a few of the songs can sometimes come off as derivative of something Janet Jackson does much better.

If you are a fan of Beyoncé Syndrome and the vocal acrobatics of some R&B singers that send vocals into the unintelligible stratosphere, you might not like this CD. But if you are looking for good tunes to kick back with, or to set the stage for physical activity with the one you love, this is the album for you.

'Flo'Ology' is available on Geffen Records. Support our local gay-owned retailers by asking if they carry it or can order it for you.

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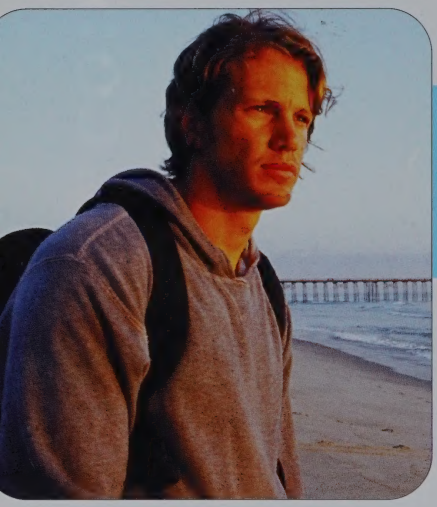
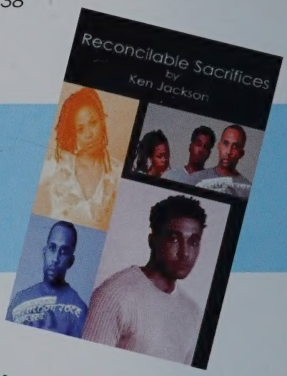


MOVIE MANIA

Two gay films, '**Loggerheads**,' starring **Kip Pardue** as Mark, an HIV positive gay man obsessed with loggerhead turtles, and 'Breakfast on Pluto,' starring Cillian Murphy as Patrick, a transgender cabaret singer, open at Landmark Midtown Arts Cinema. *Friday, Jan. 13, 931 Monroe Drive, 678-495-1424, www.landmarktheatres.com*

ATLANTA IS BURNING

The runway wars of 'Paris is Burning' continue in Atlanta when local house members come together for the '**MLK Unity Ball**' to compete for titles in vogue-ing and other battles. *Sunday, Jan. 15, 6 p.m. at the Rialto Theatre, 80 Forsyth St., 404-441-4638*



SELF ACCEPTANCE

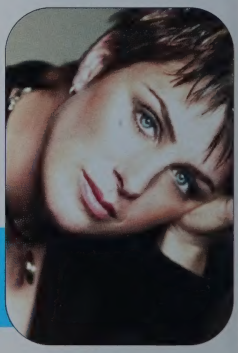
Atlanta author and filmmaker Ken Jackson chats up his new novel, 'Reconcilable Sacrifices,' his sequel to 'Colorful Matters,' about a black man's struggle to accept his sexuality. *Thursday, Jan. 12, 8 p.m. at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 991 Piedmont Ave., 404-607-0082, www.outwritebooks.com*

BREAK IT DOWN

DJ **Tony Moran** blasts a set for the crowd at **Jungle**. *Saturday, Jan. 14, 10 p.m., 2115 Faulkner Road, 404-844-8800, www.jungleclub.net*

YOU BETTA' WORK

The lovely **Armorettes** gather again for the venerable camp drag troupe's **27th Anniversary show**. *Sunday, Jan. 15, 8 p.m. at Burkhart's, 1492-F Piedmont Ave., 404-872-4403, www.burkharts.com*



IN THE NAME OF LOVE

DJ **Tracy Young** spins at the **MLK Weekend** party brought to you by the boys of Ovah Productions. *Sunday, Jan. 15, 9 p.m. at Park Pavilion, 311 Marietta St. www.ovahproductions.com*

HOT DATES

01.14 FIRST MCC: Tour the Martin Luther King Jr. Center with the First Metropolitan Community Church in honor of the holiday weekend named for the civil rights leader. *10 a.m. at the MLK Jr. Center 450 Auburn Ave., 404-526-8900, www.thekingcenter.org*

01.14-01.15 JADE ESTEBAN ESTRADA:

The comic (above) returns to Atlanta with the second in his 'Icons' series lampooning characters from gay history. *Saturday, Jan. 14 at 8 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 15 at 6:15 p.m. at the First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Road, 404-325-4143, www.firstmcc.com*

01.15 TWIST: 'Twist,' a national gay radio show featuring gay on-air personality Melissa Carter and gay Hollywood buff Dennis Hensley, premiers on Q100. *10 p.m. – 12 a.m. on 100.5 FM.*

01.16 GOLDEN GLOBES: The 63rd Annual Golden Globe Awards airs on NBC, featuring nominees 'Brokeback Mountain' and its co-star Heath Ledger, 'Transamerica' star Felicity Huffman and 'Capote' star Philip Seymour Hoffman. *8 p.m. on NBC.*

01.16 Bayard Rustin Breakfast: Join In the Life Atlanta and AIDS Survival Project for the Annual Bayard Rustin Breakfast/Brunch before the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. March. *Breakfast begins at 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at 139 Ralph McGill Blvd.; March meets at 12:45 p.m. at the corner of Ellis and Peachtree, 404-872-6410, www.inthelifeatl.com*

NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

THU 01.12

ARMORY. Open 9 p.m. Wassup-n-Atl promo begins 10 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Video Grama with DJ George Greenlee, 9 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Kitty LeClaw's 'Meow Mix,' midnight.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret starring Charlie Brown and cast, 10 p.m.-until. Talent search sign-up 9-10:30 p.m. Open 9 p.m.-4 a.m.
EAGLE. "Blackout Thursday," 10 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Happy hour, 5-9 p.m.
HALO. 'Boys Night Out' resident DJ Brandon Sutton. Check the DJ booth for occasional CD giveaways.
HERETIC. Rapture with DJ Rick Walsh 10 p.m., no cover.
HOEDOWNS. Ladies Night. Free dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia with Tom & Jim, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. "Bad Boyz, Bad Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Rotating weekly theme nights.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Trivia with prizes, 9 p.m.
OSCARS. Pure energy, pure videos.
RED CHAIR. "The Karaoke Contest," 10 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2 for 1 at door & VIP rooms
TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. College Night, hottest student bodies, no cover.

FRI 01.13

ARMORY. Patio Bar open 3 p.m.-3 am. DJ George Greenlee 9 p.m. "Glamazons," 11 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba and Jeffery, 7:30 p.m., DJ Rob Reum afterwards.
BURKHART'S. The Friday Show with Kitty LeClaw and Mary Edith Pitts,11:30.
CHAPARRAL. "Hot Papi" night, 10 p.m.-3 a.m. 18 to party, 21 to drink.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret. 10 p.m.-until. Open 9 p.m.-4 a.m.
CLUB MIAMI. ¡Caliente! Internacional with DJ Martin 10 p.m. Holiday Show, 12:30 a.m.
HERETIC. DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m.
JUNGLE. Come Out Dancing:7:30 p.m., live music :8:30 p.m.
THE LION'S DEN. "Hot Prey Friday's." Hip-Hop and R&B. 10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Nicole Paige Brooks and Girlzz of LeBuzz talent competition, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Boys' Room" with Stewart, 9 p.m.
MODEL T. "Divas of Delusion" drag show. 11 pm.
OSCARS. Afternoon showtunes. "Martinis, Men & Music Videos," 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Tapas menu. Music videos. No cover.
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
TWINKLEDOME. Dress-up and dance to rock, glam, punk and new wave on every third Friday of every month with special guests Amber Taylor and the Sexual Side Effects. 9pm. $5 cover. Six, 3167 Roswell Rd. Atlanta GA 30305, 404-869-0522, www.twinkledome.com
SWINGING RICHARDS. "2-4-1 T-Shirt Review."
WETbar. Splash with DJ Jason Edwards, no cover

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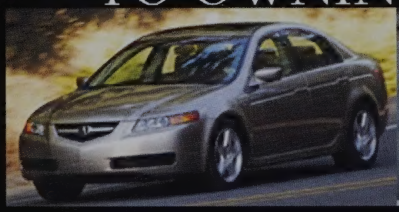

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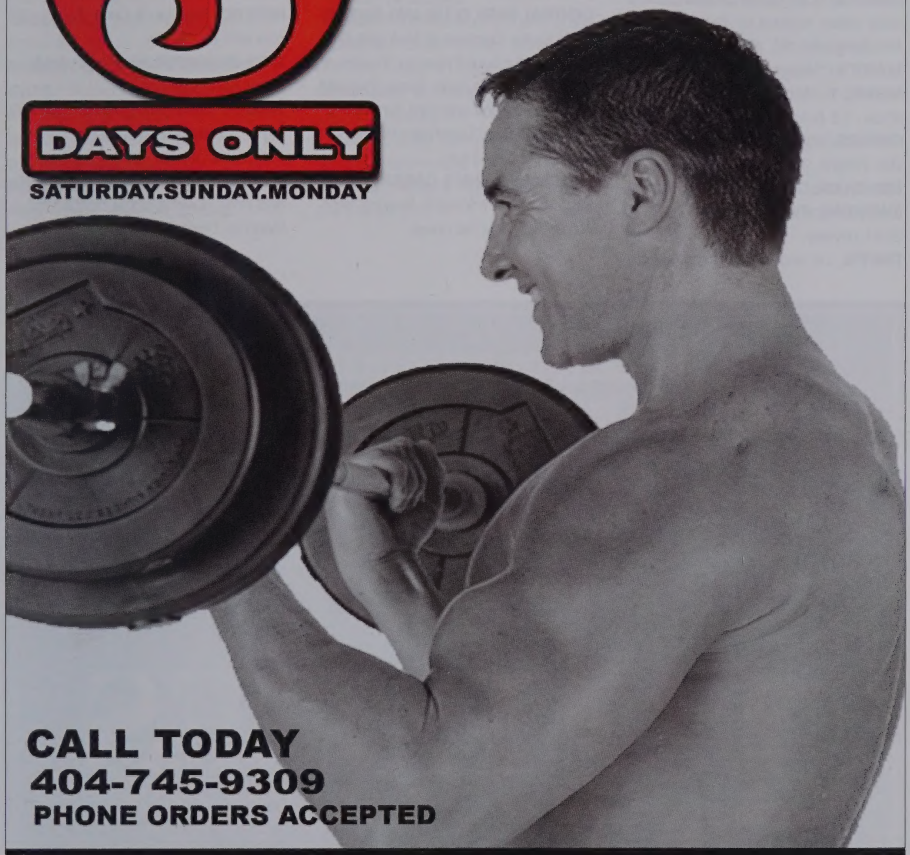

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SAT 01.14

ARMORY. Patio bar 3 p.m.-3 a.m. Wassup n-Atl 10 p.m. "Glamazons," 11 p.m.
BLAKES. "Let's Make a Diva Deal" 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. 'Saturday Showcase' with Mary Edith Pitts and Kitty LeClaw, 11 p.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret . 10 p.m.-until. Open 9 p.m.-4 a.m.
HERETIC. DJ Brian Beck at 9 p.m.
JUNGLE. DJ Rick Mitchell. Doors open 10 p.m. $10 members, $20 non-members.
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show hosted by Tequila Mockingbird, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. "Model Teez Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.
OSCARS. High energy videos w/VJ Das Wright, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Girlz Night Out, female DJ
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRIPPS. 1st and 3rd Saturdays: Linda Michaels' "Showcase Showdown," 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m
WETBAR. Submerge with DJ Joe Bermudez, $10 Cover

SUN 01.15

ATLANTA LIVE. Sundays in Exile with resident DJ Martin and guests, 11 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "Big Time!" drag revue with Shabazz, Jealousé, Myah Monroe, and guests.
BULLDOGS. Old school, house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Armorettes show, 9 p.m., no cover.
CENTRAL PARK CLUB AND BISTRO. Male Exotic Dancers at Midnight K-Rock Productions Presents 'Freaks of the Industry' with hosts Busta Love and DJ Gee every first and third Sunday.
CHAPARRAL. "Legendary Hip Hop Night," 10 p.m.-3 a.m.
CHARLIE BROWN'S CABARET. Drag cabaret show, midnight. Pouring until 4 a.m. Monday. No cover
CLUB EUROPE. The Lion's Den Presents "Erotic Sunday's." Hip-Hp and R&B. 8 p.m. – 3 a.m.
MISS Q'S. Free Pool.
RED CHAIR. Sunday brunch, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. T-dance 3-6 p.m., 1st and 3rd Sun.: The Tuckerettes, 2nd and 4th: The Stage Door Divas.

MON 01.16

BLAKE'S. "Princess and the Drag Races," 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Tyler, midnight.
EAGLE. Free pool and rock music.
HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Jim & Baton Bob, 8-10 p.m.
JUNGLE. Salsa dance class, $5, 7-10 p.m. "Stars of the Century" w/Niesha Dupree, 11 p.m. $7 cover.
LeBUZZ. "Lady LeBuzz" drag kings and drag queens show hosted by Heather Daniels, 10 p.m.

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OSCARS. Service industry night, 9 p.m.
WOOFS. Texas Hold-Em. No entry fee, prizes and more.

TUE 01.17

BJ'S ROOSTER'S. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
BLAKE'S. "Family" Feud w/Mary Edith Pitts, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
EAGLE. Free pool, rock music. Open 8 p.m.
GILBERT'S MEDITERRANEAN CAFE. "Navel" male belly dancing, 9:30 p.m.
HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Free beginner two-step dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Tom & Jim, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke with Alexandria Martin, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
MISS Q'S. Pool League
MY SISTERS' ROOM. "Bingo with prizes, 9 p.m.
OSCAR'S. Showtune Tuesdays
STAGE DOOR. Texas Hold 'Em, 7:30 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. $5 Cover at 8pm.
WETBAR. Noche Caliente & Mojado with the hottest Latin DJs, no cover

WED 01.18

ARMORY. DJ Rob Reum, 9 pm - 3 am
BLAKE'S. "Brain Freeze" trivia w/Ruby Redd, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CHERRY. Drag show and dinner with complimentary wine
FELIX'S. Jackpot Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.
HERETIC. Boys Night Out Dress Code Party with DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m., no cover
HOEDOWNS. Free cha-cha dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JUNGLE. Southern line dancing, 7-9 p.m.
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Video request night.
MISS Q'S. Pool League
MODEL T. Movie night, midnight.
OSCARS. Comedy night w/DJ Ken B, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Dinner & A Movie.
STAGE DOOR. Trivia, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SUTRA LOUNGE. "Accelerator Wednesdays" Doors open 10 p.m. www.sutralounge.com,www.ovahproductions.com
SWINGING RICHARDS. $5 Cover at 8pm.
VAL'S. Singles or team trivia, 8 p.m.
WETbar. Midweek Meltdown, no cover

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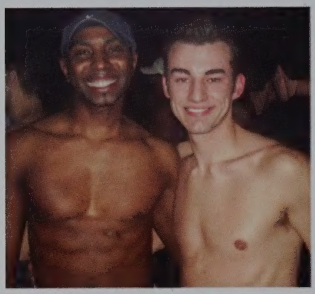

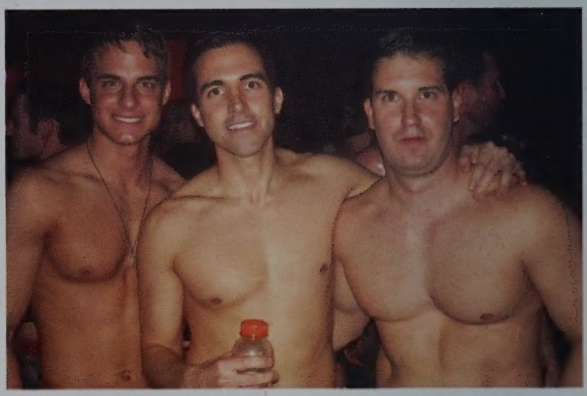

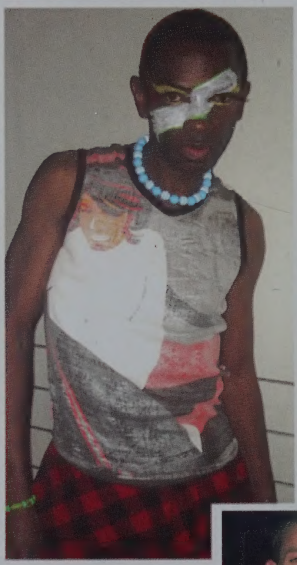

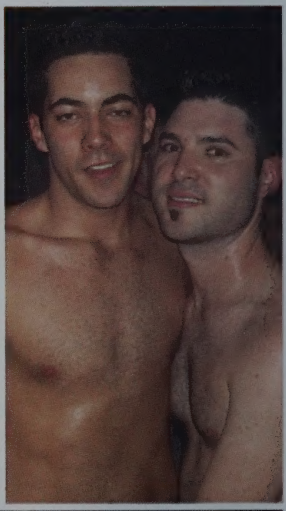

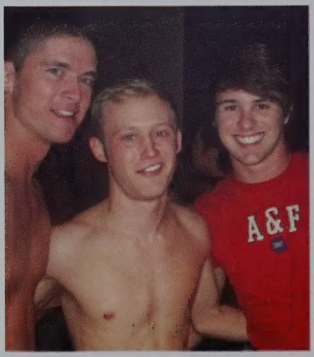

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MAKING THE ROUNDS BY RYAN LEE

SHAKE THAT THING

Booty-clapping good time at **Swinging Richards** and **Burkhart's**

NIESHA DUPREE TEARS IT UP EVERY THURSDAY AT KITTY LECLAW'S (BACKGROUND) MEOW MIX AT BURKHART'S.

SAYING GOOD-BYE TO THE HOLIDAYS CAN BE tough, especially when you have to finally take down the lights and put the Christmas CDs in their case until next year. But it was while removing decorations from the tree that the Making the Rounds boys decided to give ourselves one last naughty present.

One of us was taking the brass cone off the top of the tree and another was holding a huge set of Christmas balls when it hit us: Let's go to **Swinging Richards**!

It's like Christmas yearround in Atlanta's only gay male strip club, with plenty of jingle bells dangling any day of the week. By the time we got there, it looked as if the party already started, since we walked in on one of the dancers swinging his Richard directly in a drooling face.

If you're headed to Swinging Richards, it better be shortly after payday. The joint can put a good dent in a wallet. Aside from tips for the dancers, the drink prices are notably stiffer than the goods bouncing onstage.

Fortunately, there was a nice crop of entertainers awaiting us — a mix of bodybuilders, bubbly butt shakers and guys who looked like fraternity boys on a dare. Ooh, take it off straight boy — don't be shy.

Jay, **Carter**, **Rod**, **Sean**, **David** and **Troy** all gave the crowd something to lick their lips over, but our boy **Damian** hit the stage with a truly inspired performance, jiggling his ass like he was mixing martinis.

Billy also had crazy energy and an, ahem, endearing performance, especially when he told us our tips made him more comfortable since it was his first night. We were about to offer other ways we could relieve the his tension.

OOPS, BUT SPEAKING OF CONSUMING GOOD meat, a couple of us went out for a nice post-holiday meal. And wherever there is delicious food around, **Matt Ruppert** is sure to be close at hand.

Ruppert and his fellow fine food aficionado **Rande Head** are getting ready to kick off their first **Big Gay Supper Club** of 2006 at Watershed in Decatur on Jan. 25. **Jason Jupiter** is set to show off his/her Southern belle charm as guests dine on some of the best fried chicken and comfort food in Dixie.

LATER, WE BRAVED THE RECENT HOWLING winds to go see **Kitty LeClaw**'s Meow Mix at **Burkhart's**. The show started almost an hour late, but as Kitty explained, "Glamour takes time."

And, whew, was **Savannah Leigh** giving the crowd glamour in her brown medieval goddess gown and Cher outfit. A nearby group of Jäger-drinking, lip-locking lesbians couldn't get enough of stuffing bills in Ms. Leigh's cleavage, and she kept making one apparently "straight" guy more nelly throughout the night.

Mary Edith Pitts tried her hardest to make it through her Pink and Kelly Clarkson numbers, but kept getting interrupted by her long-winded flatulence — it was almost as hilarious as her getting the Holy Spirit when performing Aretha Franklin songs later in the night.

Alicia Kelly nailed some Queen of Soul hits, too. She wore down her high heel working it out at high speed for the crowd.

Niesha Dupree was on high-energy mode as well, raising heart-rates with her selections from the original Material Girl and her more modern incarnation, Gwen Stefani. Niesha's rendition of "Rich Girl" had the charged-up crowd screaming for an encore, which she graciously obliged.

***Swinging Richards** is located 1400 Northside Dr., 404-352-0532.*
***Big Gay Supper Club** is $35 per person for a four-course meal. Restaurants vary by month, 404-668-5649, www.biggaysupperclub.com.*
***Burkhart's** is located at 1492-F Piedmont Road in Ansley Square, 404-872-4403, www.burkharts.com*

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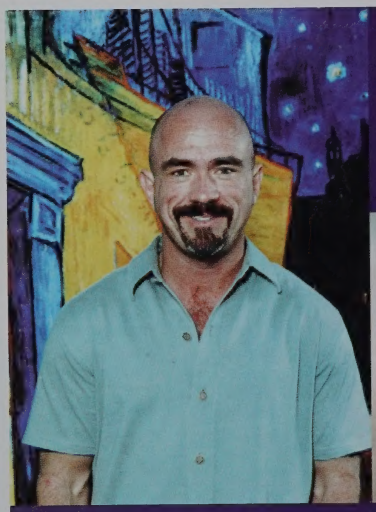

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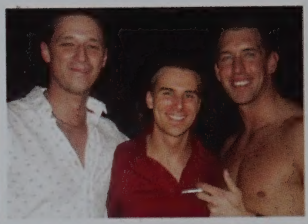
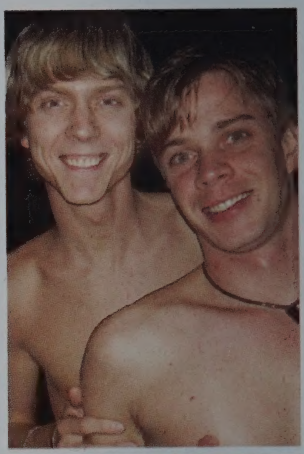

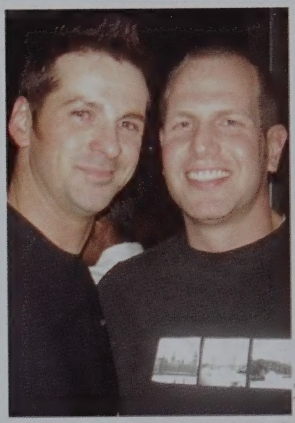

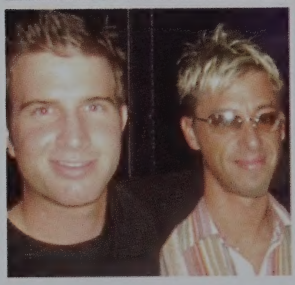

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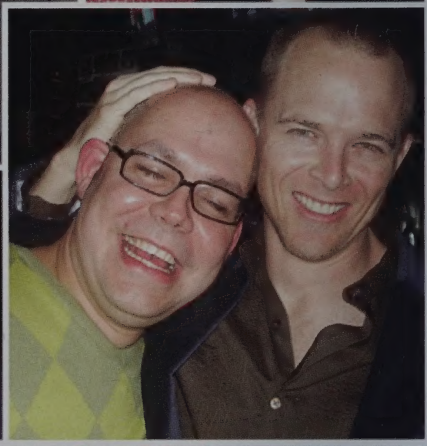

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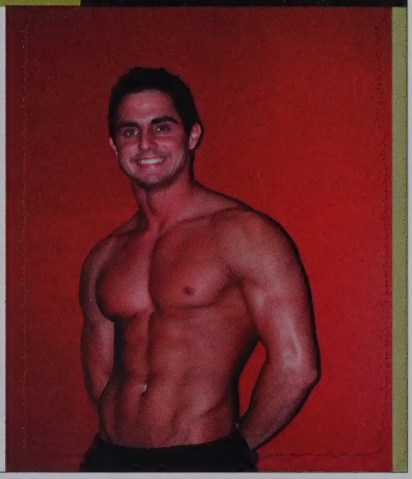

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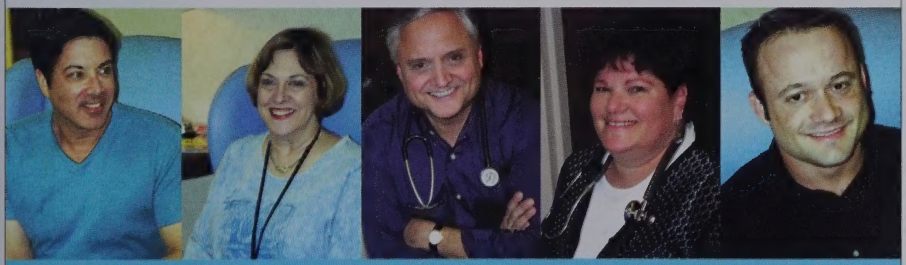

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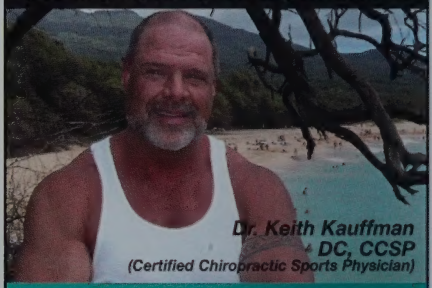

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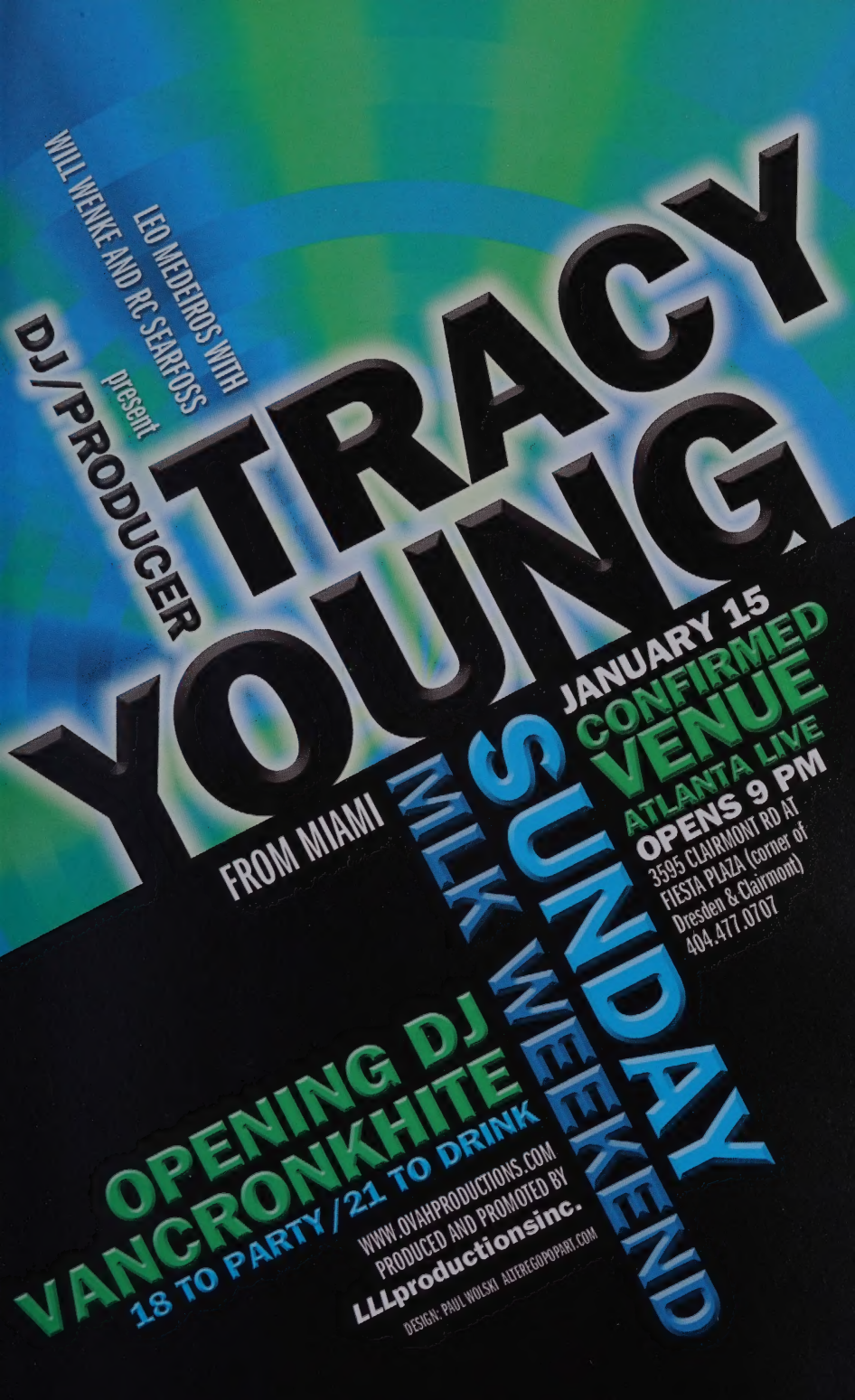
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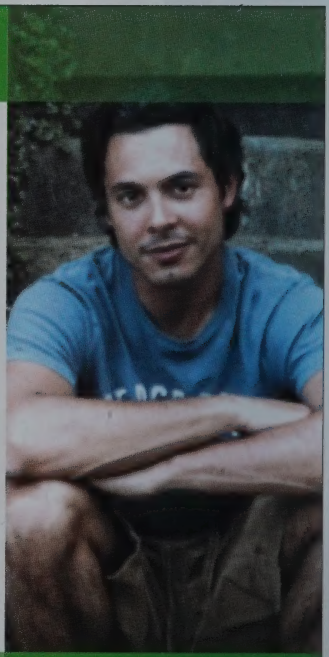

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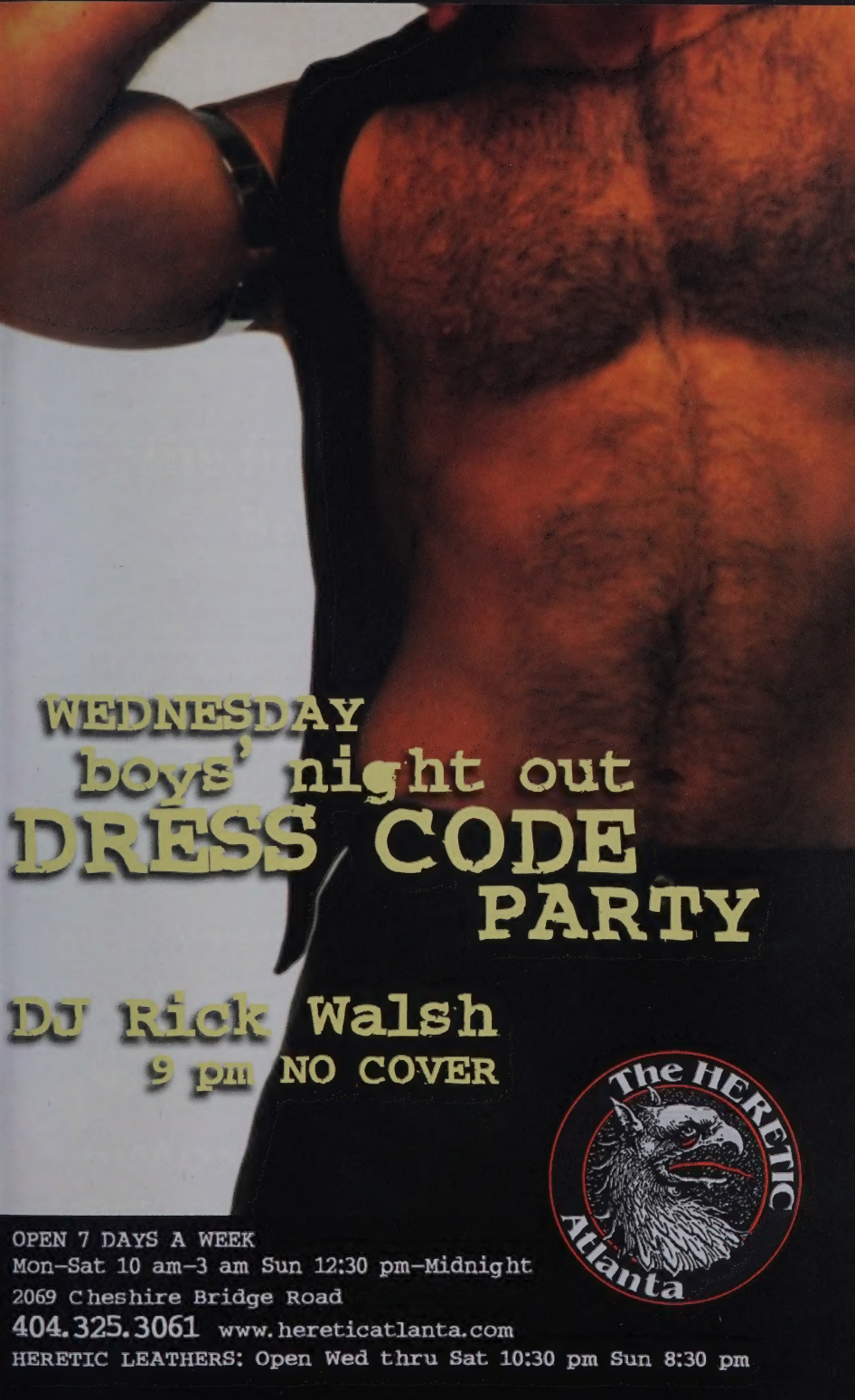

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ST★RSTRUCK BY TODD RENTZ

CAPRICORN (Dec. 21 - Jan. 21)

Happy Birthday, Goats. With Venus, the planet of love and value, retrograding in your sign all month, it's time to reevaluate your self-worth, relationships and finances. Learn to appreciate yourself and all your accomplishments. Then move on and ask yourself what do you need to work on when it comes to relating to others. By the 3rd of February, you will see major changes in these areas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 18)

You may not want to hear this, but your life is about to transition into an area that doesn't honor your individualism. This may be the best time to learn meditation in order to learn patience. You'll be a better man if you remain optimistic about these changes.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)

You are usually the most unselfish sign in the zodiac, but that old behavior just doesn't seem to fit you these days. It's not that you lost your compassion for mankind. You're just more aware of who you are and what you need without apologizing for your actions.

ARIES (March 20 - April 19)

You've felt like a dog chasing its own tail for the last few months. Now you're moving forward, but it feels like you are covering old ground again. Patience — not a word that you like to hear — is the key. Focus on what you desire most and take time to plan before jumping headfirst.

TAURUS (April 19 - May 20)

Your ruling planet, Venus, is spinning in reverse this month. Reevaluate what you really love, value and appreciate most in your life. It's hard for you to make changes, but change is a must. Don't get bogged down in something that's not healthy just for the sake of comfort.

GEMINI (May 20 - June 21)

Give yourself a break this month from all the activity that usually occupies your time. Clear your head and recharge your batteries. Cut the caffeine and find other ways stay calm, and you will be able to put your brilliance to good use.

CANCER (June 21- July 22)

With Jupiter and Uranus in complete harmony with your Sun, it is time to explore new aspects of your creativity and expand your horizons. Take a risk to be what you've never been before. Make that step to do something that you've only dreamt of doing. Optimism is your greatest strength now.

LEO (July 22 - Aug. 22)

Your focus has been on what really drives your desires and passions in your career. With Saturn retrograde in your sign, it's never been more important to follow your heart. You are in a more serious frame of mind to get what you need now. Don't be hesitant; go for it.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 - Sept. 22)

Your approach to relationships is always very cautious, but during this time, you have a tremendous opportunity to understand more than ever how you relate to others. If a relationship develops, it may not be a perfect fit, but you can walk away from it with a greater understanding of who you are and what you want in someone.

LIBRA (Sept. 22 - Oct. 23)

Someone may stir up a bit of unneeded excitement this month by showing you a new idea or point of view. This information may not support your current perspective, but you are curious to see where it takes you. Be cautious, or you may be led astray.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 22)

You can be your harshest critic at times. It's a good thing that you have caring and gentle people who accept you the way you are. Don't sulk all alone if you can help it. Others are ready to provide reassurance that you've got a great deal to accomplish.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Archers want to have fun, but it's possible that you have entirely too much to do without adding recreational activities to your calendar. You cannot burn the candle at both ends all the time. You will need to stop and get some much-needed rest this month.

Todd Rentz is an Atlanta based astrologer. 678-358-4699, www.AstroRelations.com.

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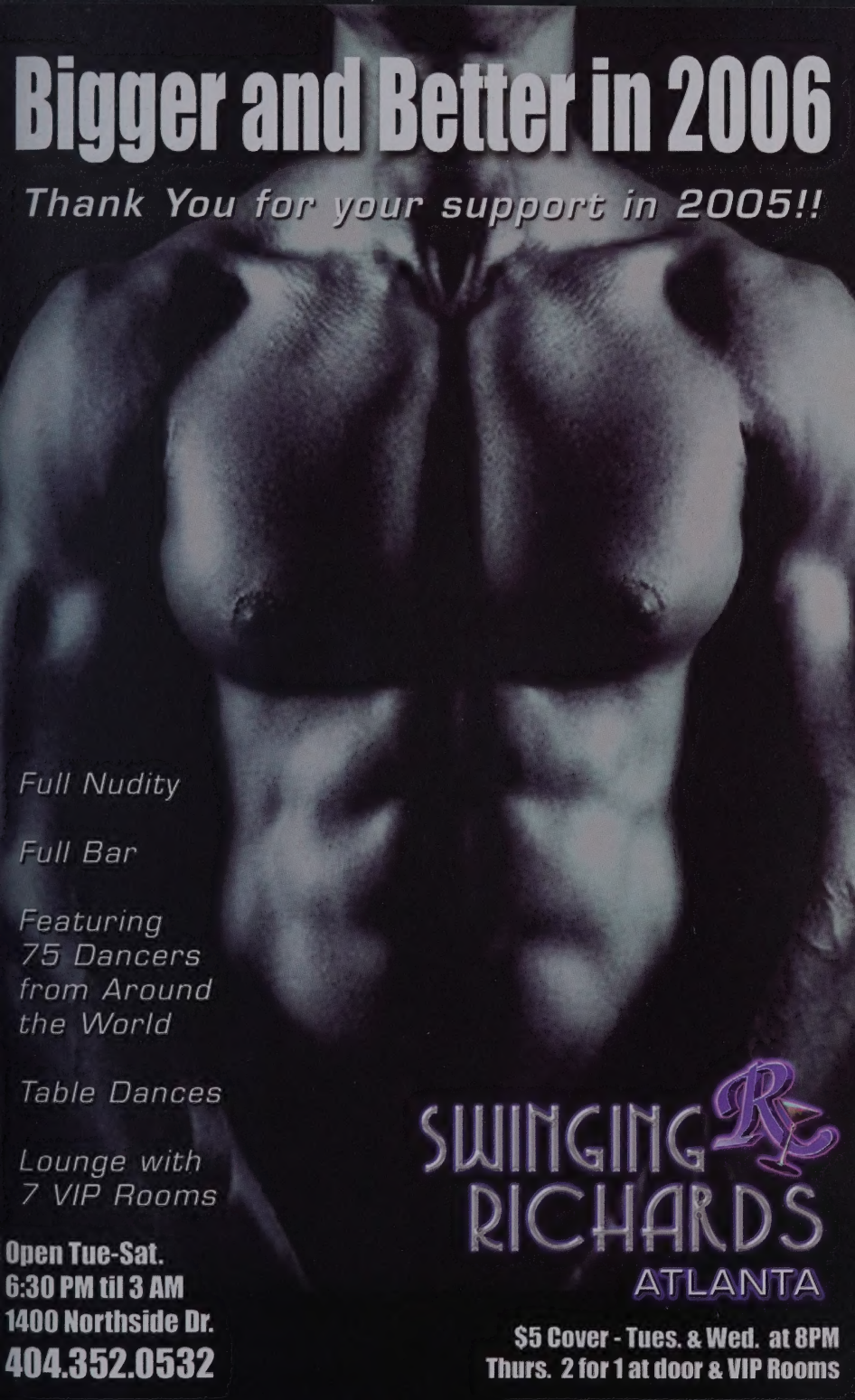
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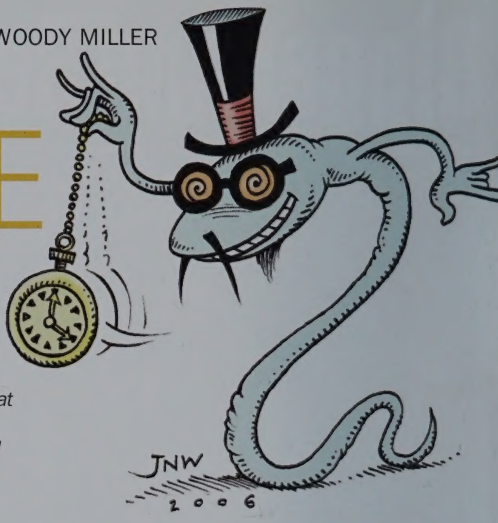
On the MOVE

Why **balls can't sit still,** and do you need hypnosis or a pill?



HEY WOODY!

One day I was staring at my balls after I beat off, and realized they were moving by themselves. At first, I thought it was because I had just ejaculated, but they move by themselves whether I've masturbated or not.

Do they have a life of their own? Why do they move?

— MOVIN' ON UP, AND DOWN

DEAR MOVIN':

The movement is what experts call "testicular circulation" — blood coursing throughout the scrotum.

When your balls are practically doing the tango with each other, it's because of the cremaster and dartos muscles. They move testicles in and out like the line outside my editor's bedroom.

Remember, testicles are sperm factories, and they're heat sensitive. Sperm need to be kept at a certain temperature, or they'll start dying. When the "boys" get cold, they snuggle up and get warm. When they're hot, they hang lower than the scruples of a circuit queen looking for her next bump.

Ever notice that just before orgasm, your testicles get into a lock-and-load position? That's the cremaster and dartos muscles working it as hard as you are.

Want to try a cool experiment? Make the boys dance. Next time you're in bed with a guy, touch the upper inner portion of his thigh.

Watch closely as his testicles move in the direction away from where your hand is touching. It's called the cremasteric reflex, which keeps the boys out of harm's way. When the "threat" is over, the testicles come back to whatever position they feel safe in.

Usually, your partner's mouth.

HEY WOODY!

I used hypnosis to quit smoking. Do you think it would help with erectile dysfunction? I've read you enough to know there are medical and psychological reasons for impotence, but how do you tell one from the other?

— FEELING SLEEPY

DEAR SLEEPY:

Your problem reminds me of the time I ran into a sobbing 12-year-old boy outside the mall, holding a hundred dollar bill.

His mother gave him $200 to buy the family Christmas gifts. He hadn't even entered the mall when an older boy grabbed one of the hundred dollar bills and ran off.

"Why didn't you scream for help?" I asked.

The boy stared at the sidewalk and sadly shook his head.

"How loud did you scream?" I asked.

The boy looked up and meekly whispered, "Help me!" I realized that no one could possibly have heard that poor boy cry for help.

So I grabbed his other hundred and ran to my car.

My point, and I do have one, is that you've got to ask for help loudly, or you're going to be ripped off. If your willow's weeping because of stress or performance anxiety, then go for the hypnosis.

But if the problem's physical, hypnosis is going to be as helpful as, well, a quiet twelve-year-old with a C-Note.

How do you know if it's physical? If you can beat off, and you get an erection overnight or in the morning, then you need psychological help.

But if you can't get an erection under any circumstances, then there's probably something wrong with your hydraulics.

Woody is the author of 'Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon.' Reach him at needwood@mac.com.

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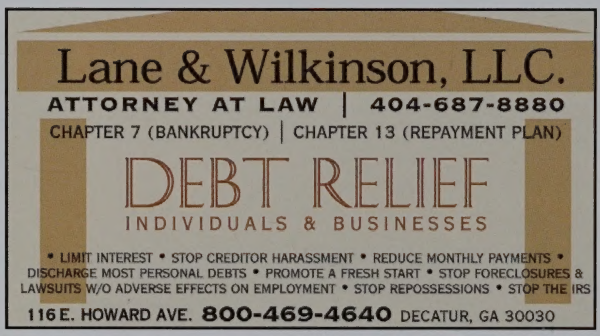
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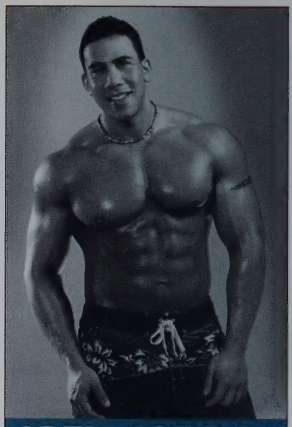

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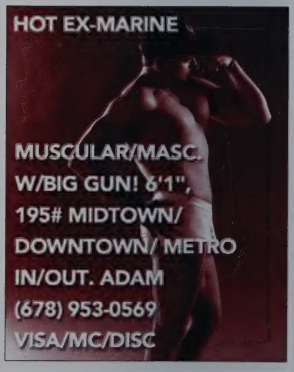

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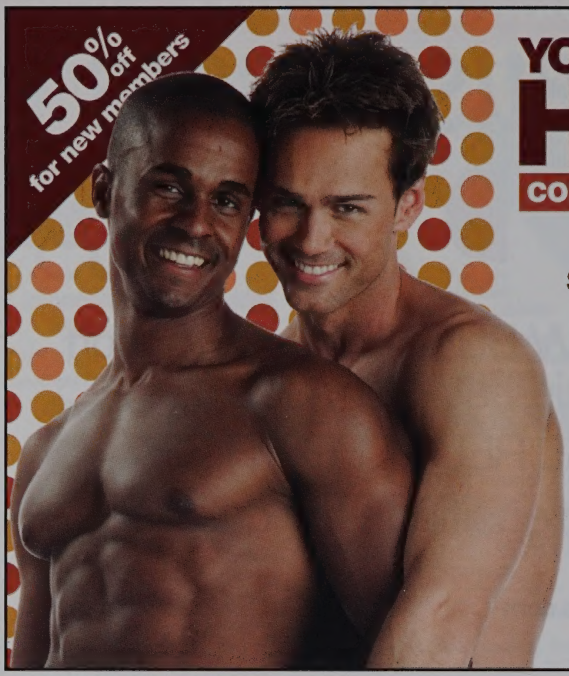

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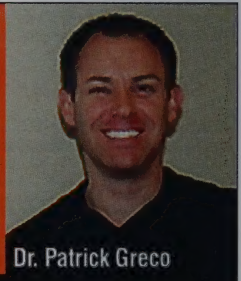

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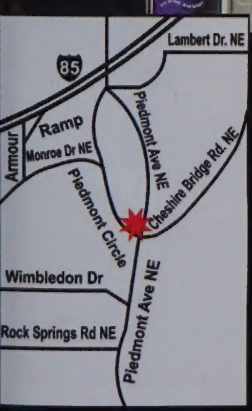

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BITCHSESSION

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> "Oh, how I wish I could meet a man who would appreciate me for my penis size and not just my heart."

To the BGM who has a "desire for a better life by dating a GWM": Honey, every brotha knows that when a white guy is coocoo for cocoa, any other brother can have him.

To the "chocolate" guy who bitched about being ignored in groups of white guys: A white guy in a group of black men gets the same treatment. It's unfair, but people tend to hang with their own race.

To the bitch complaining that people should leave you a tip for "to go" service at a restaurant: The whole idea to avoid a service charge for having a waiter cater to you. What will you pocket-picking parasites want next, a tip when I do drive through at McDonald's?

To the BGM dating GWM: How does dating GWM make your life better? You don't sound prejudiced, but a tad self-hating.

Who can afford therapists at the outrageous prices they charge per hour? All they do is listen and say nothing for an hour. What a scam!

The spreader isn't the HIV-positive guy being honest, it's the HIV-positive guy being dishonest. Trust me, that's how I got it. Show some heart, guys.

Why do drag queens continuously rant on about Stonewall and how we supposedly owe them something for it? You weren't there personally.

Gay couples should make out in front of those hetero couples promenading in gay neighborhoods holding hands.

It's called "Bitch Session" for a reason. People aren't expected to be kind, courteous or sweet to each other.

If voluptuous is supposed to mean sexy, then why is the term always applied to fat women in old paintings? Cellulite and blubber aren't sexy!

To all the potential husbands out there: Try being a loving friend first; things might last longer.

What's all this talk about people being chocolate? You do realize there is such a thing as white chocolate, too, don't you?

Feel free to call yourself "bi" — but first, can you explain to the rest of us why you're surfing for sex in the gay chatrooms 24/7?

Thongs on guys are so wrong. Get a real man's undergarment. Wear a jockstrap.

Wake up and don't eat butt! I caught amoebas from doing it and they are the worst. It was pure hell getting rid of them. My doc says they are everywhere in the gay community, and pretty easy to catch.

Susan Morabito should consider a new career as a truck stop waitress. It would not be much different than that crap she was serving up on the turntables on New Year's Day. Susan if you are not happy, change jobs!

So you've got great hair. Nobody cares anymore, because your pretty shiny hair doesn't cover your irritating personality. Leave the vanity in that hovel you call a bedroom.

I know you look great without your shirt, but can you please keep it on until you're home? It's nauseating to brush against someone's sticky, sweaty skin. The B.O. is also amazing.

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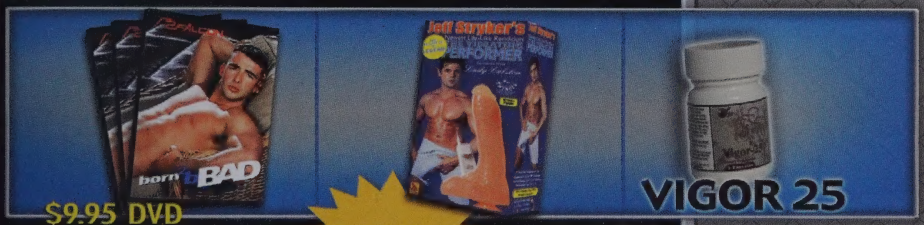

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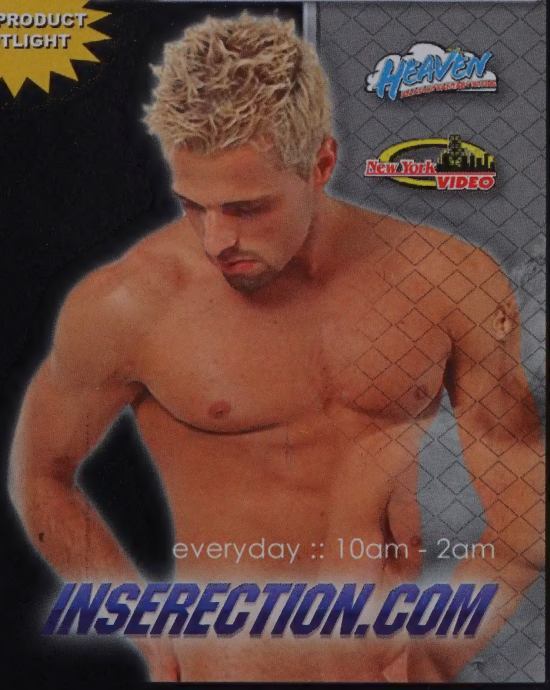

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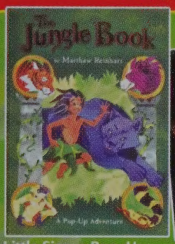

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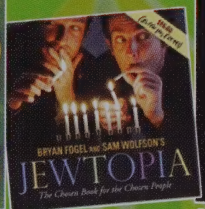

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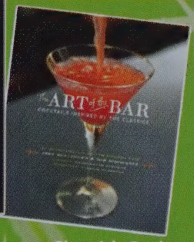

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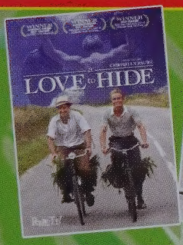

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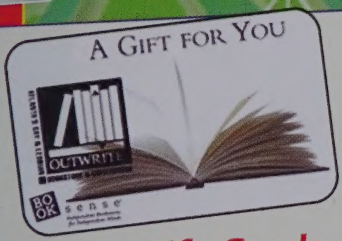

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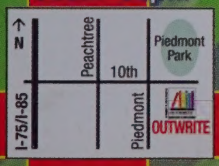

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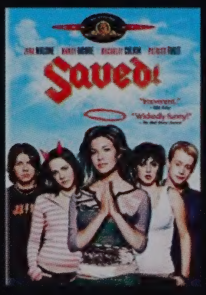

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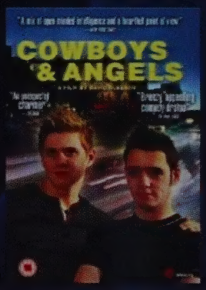

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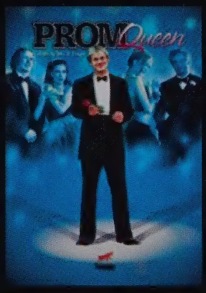

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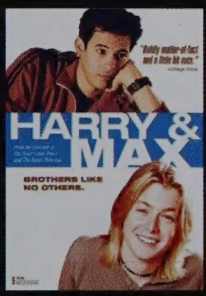

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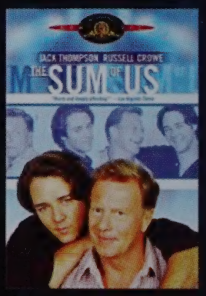

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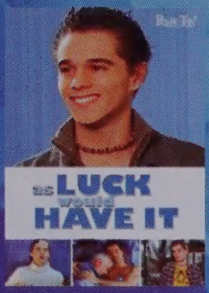

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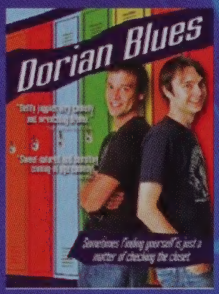

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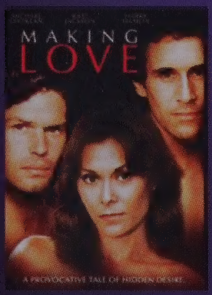

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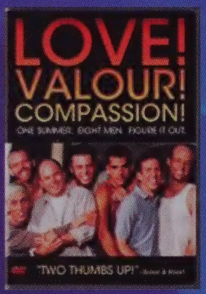

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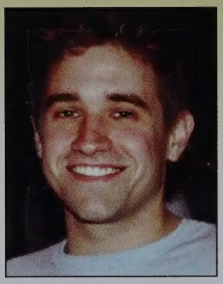

BARELY THERE

BY ROB BECK

Babes in DADDYLAND

Hooking up the **generation gap**

MY FRIENDS SOMETIMES LIKE TO ATTACK without warning, like pit bulls. Granted, there are specific trigger words that I am well aware will cause them to snap from sweet to snarky, but I'm usually too slow to remember not to use them.

Take, for example, the following conversation, in which I was cheerfully trying to assure my friend George (no, not Topher's George) that he is, in fact, not fat.

"I need to get back into the gym," he sighed into the phone.

"Hush," I said. "You're a skinny bitch; you don't need to worry."

"But I've been eating like crazy!" cried George.

"Whatever," I said. "It's, like, in our DNA to eat too much turkey and stuffing and fatty fatty gravy this time of year. You know, because of the cold. It's evolution."

George, who was a biology minor, wasn't buying my rationalization. "It's not evolution. It's gluttony. And it's making me fat."

"Because you're getting ready for winter. Like bears before they hibernate."

"Right," said George, taking a tone that immediately told me I'd walked right into it. "I'm sure you know all about the bears."

I'VE LEARNED THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING that, no matter how many years pass and things change, your friends never allow you to live down. Maybe you're the guy who got drunk and let the drag queen undress you in front of a whole bar.

You could be the one who slept his way across Florida one particularly slutty spring break and came home with a well-earned case of crabs. Or perhaps you cried when Buffy died — both times.

Or, maybe you're like me and you're the only one among your friends who hooked up with an Older Man once (or twice). And your friends never let you forget it.

Not that I would want to forget. Older Man was hot, and I still stand by my choice. He was about 16 years older than me (basically, you could fit a whole person who can drive between us), a former college football player, and he looked like he had just stepped off the field and into the locker room of my coach/player fantasies.

He wasn't actually a bear; that's just the blanket term my friends use to get on my nerves. For roughly the past year, I have been unable to utter that word, however innocently, without one or more of my friends jumping at the opportunity to tease me.

Which is why I should have known better, even in casual conversation, and especially with George. He's typically into skinny, blonde, surfer-boy types, and he has long been unable to understand how I could lust after someone who didn't have the common courtesy to die at the age of 30.

ALL OF WHICH MADE MY NEXT CONVERSATION with George all the more delicious.

"So, how're things going with Daddy John?" I asked George a couple days later. He was seeing Daddy John for about a month, and I never asked his age; I figured the "Daddy" was just George's way of saying that John was over 25.

George hesitated. "It's ... good."

"What do you mean ... 'good'?"

"I found out how old he is," George said.

"How'd you manage that?"

"We were talking about football, and he made a comment that he'd been around nearly as long as the Super Bowl," he continued.

George took a breath as I did a rough estimate, and then laughed at him.

"And you found yourself wishing you'd paid more attention in elementary school the day they taught Roman numerals?" I asked.

"No," George sighed. "I was wishing I'd been out sick."

As tempting as it is to revel in the fantastic irony of a guy like George seriously dating an older man, I think I'll leave him be. Try as he might, George can't find a reason beyond the fact that Daddy John is 39 to dump him, so he's sticking it out to see where it goes.

I'd say that milestone of maturity is more important than a few laughs for the sake of revenge. Besides, I've got enough dirt on George to entertain myself well into our own daddy years.

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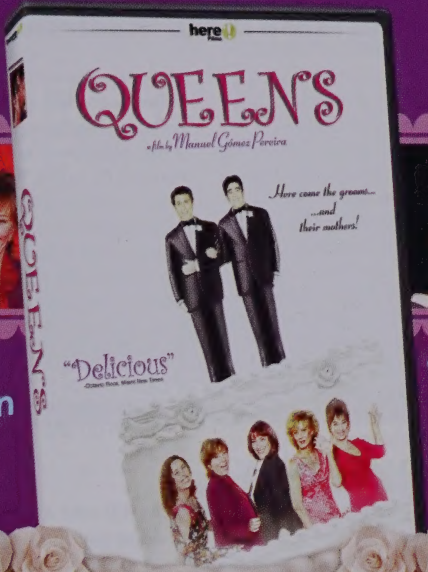

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MAYBE IT'S JUST ME

BY TOPHER PAYNE

THE IMAGINARY ADULT

Believing I can make it in a **make-believe world**

AS AN ENTHUSIASTIC PATRON OF AMERICAN theater, I was honored to attend a recent performance by an amateur company's interpretation of a Japanese folktale. The venue was Morningside Elementary School, and the performers were all under the age of 10.

In a previous chapter of my existence, I ran the day care center at a posh health club in Buckhead. To my charges at the center, I took on a new identity: "Mister Topher." I stayed in touch with a few of the families after I left, and remain Mister Topher to those children.

I was at the elementary school in support of one of those kids, and it was such a thrill to see him perform. I remember when he struggled to form complete sentences. After the production, I walked his sister back to her classroom to meet her teacher.

I was stunned when I encountered a pretty woman around my age. Then I looked around at the parents, and realized a lot of them appeared to be in my peer group as well.

This observation remained an uncomfortable pebble in my brain for a few days, then really came to a head this morning. It's my birthday. I started to do some mental math and realized I am now the same age my father was when I was born.

This was jarring. On this day in 1979, my 27-year-old father had a mortgage, a wife, and two children. On this same day in 2006, his 27-year-old son has a house he rents, several incomplete manuscripts, and two roommates.

THE CLOSEST THING I HAVE TO CONSISTENT responsibility is my Sunday night pizza date with George to watch our shows on ABC. My father was making contributions to college funds at this point. I make contributions to bartenders and my personal trainer.

I spend most my time immersed in a culture dominated by gay men, and it's easy to lose track of the timeline being followed by many of our heterosexual counterparts. We're not running off and getting married right out of school or having kids in our mid-20s.

Our denial of (or freedom from) the milestones that define the majority results in a sort of blissful extended adolescence. It takes a lot longer for us to reach a point where we have to be home for the kids, and even then it's only after an extended process usually involving exorbitant legal fees.

But what bothers me isn't just that I don't have a spouse or offspring. Moreover, it's the nagging concern that Dad was so much more grown-up at this point than I am. I could never handle the level of responsibility he juggled at my age.

What was his secret? What do I need to do to catch up and become a more authentic adult?

I CALLED HIM AND SHARED ALL OF THIS. THEN I had to wait until he stopped laughing.

"You think I had any idea what I was doing when you were born?" he said. "I was terrified. I couldn't believe anybody would let me have two kids, like I knew what to do with them."

"So you didn't feel like an adult?"

"Son, I'll tell you a secret — for your birthday. You never feel like an adult. You just realize there's all these people who are so much younger than you, and they keep looking at you like you're supposed to know something. So you make stuff up. That's all it is, making stuff up to make the younger people feel better. Now you're in on the secret, and that's the closest thing to real adulthood there is."

All those years, I thought my father knew everything. And it turns out he was just as uncertain as I am now. I was so relieved.

Later in life, if my nephew or one of my former day-care kids has a formidable question, Mister Topher can participate in the time-honored tradition of selling them on the best bullshit he can formulate. And if I'm very lucky, time and experience will provide me with wisdom I don't even know is there. Just like my Dad.

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Gaining PERSPECTIVE

Experience is why 40 is the new fabulous

I CONFESSED AWHILE BACK ABOUT MY STRUGGLE with the "Age Cage," how being 40 and pushing 41 in the gay world meant joking jabs from my friends with a pretty harsh personal and social reality behind them.

I talked about gay men's particular embrace of society's youth obsession, and that I was falling victim to it against my better judgment. It bothered me that I was old enough to be some fully grown adult's daddy — and not in the fun way.

I vowed to bust out of the Age Cage and to appreciate my life experience. More than 20 of you wrote that you liked the column, that you were having the same thoughts, or not to worry, that the insecurity passes. Now I'm 41 and feeling much better, thank you.

NOTHING MAKES ME SURER THAT I'M OVER THE psychological hump — and not over the hill — than this week's issue of *David*. I am so proud to host the men on the following pages and present their views to those of you who need some reassurance, and to younger readers who can look to a bright, sexy future.

The germ of the idea for Fierce Over 40 came when we called for nominations to feature in our annual Atlanta Guys issue in October.

We were happy with the results, but I admit, I was disappointed that most of our nominees were younger than 30, and that none were older than 35.

It just doesn't jibe with our mission to represent such a narrow view of the GayTL's diversity. Sure, we know that *David* readers skew younger than our sister publication, *SoVo*, but I regularly hear from readers aged 16-60.

We busted ass in the eleventh hour to lure some "older" participants, with no bites. Then my worst fear came to pass: along with compliments, a few e-mails came in from readers as disappointed as I was that we didn't represent a broader age range.

The friendly, reasoned letters got a response: "I agree with you 100 percent. We are already planning a special issue that makes it up to you. Would you help me find guys over 40 willing to participate?"

And as usual, *David* readers came through.

CHECK OUT THE HOT PICTURES, BUT ALSO BE sure to read what the Fierce Over 40 men have to say as they discuss coming out and growing up.

Besides a broad range of experiences, careers, activities and opinions, also note a few common threads in this "gay generation": calling confidence the most attractive trait a man can have, being true to and taking care of themselves, thanking the generation that came before them, and the most frequent topic to arise — HIV/AIDS.

Adapting our behavior, helping each other and keeping fun on the priority list are also ongoing themes here that come directly from many of these guys' lives being touched by HIV when it was our most unwelcome common denominator.

Most gay guys 40 and older don't just know someone who died from the virus, but they count many of the lost millions among their closest friends, lovers and family members. For some of the funny, smart, resilient men profiled this week, it's personal.

All these guys are literal or figurative survivors, and they all take getting older in stride. Some are thriving in spite of disease, and several are donating their time and energies to help not just AIDS causes, but contribute in other ways that increase what they offer the world and ensure they leave a lasting mark on it.

I, for one, appreciate the perspective.

THANK YOU TO READERS WHO HELPED MAKE Fierce Over 40 happen, and to the sexy men who took their time to pose for our camera and share their viewpoints. Special thanks go to photographer Tim Wilkerson* for his keen eye, amazing organizational skills and of course, the beautiful pictures. Turn the page to see what I mean.

— Mike Fleming, editor

*This week's cover and the Fierce Over 40 photos on pages 16-51 by Tim Wilkerson. TimWilkersonATL@aol.com.

TIM MULLINS, 45

Occupation: Realtor

Relationship Status: I have met the man of my dreams.

Background: Grew up in a small town in Illinois

What is your motto? All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own

What is the most attractive trait a man can have? Self-confidence in himself and empathy for others.

How have you changed the most over the years? I stopped worrying about how others perceive me. I remain an idealistic person, but now I am more cautious in my approach in life.

What's the most powerful lesson you've learned? You can't depend on others to give you happiness. You have it in yourself and it will come.

What defines your "gay generation"? Great transition. When we were coming out, it was terrifying. We were indoctrinated into the world of AIDS as it developed. We had to adjust to an entirely new way of expressing ourselves sexually and taking care of our own. We are survivors.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? Do not rush things. Take your time exploring your sexuality; you have many years of discovery. With age comes the confidence and experience that will make you a well-rounded human being. And Botox, don't forget the Botox.

What else would you like to say to gay Atlanta? Remember that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. And for the most part, the beholder likes to see a fit, well rounded, secure person of any age.

JEFF PARAMORE, 42

Occupation: Pharmacuetical sales

Extracurricular Activities: Working out, travel, spending time in the North Georgia Mountains, Project Open Hand Volunteer

Relationship Status: Single

Background: BSBA from Auburn University; From small-town Alabama

What is the most interesting thing about you? The people I know

What is your motto? Everything in moderation, and treat everyone the same.

What surprises most people about you? That I do what I say I am going to do

What do you dream of that you haven't attained yet? Owning a jet

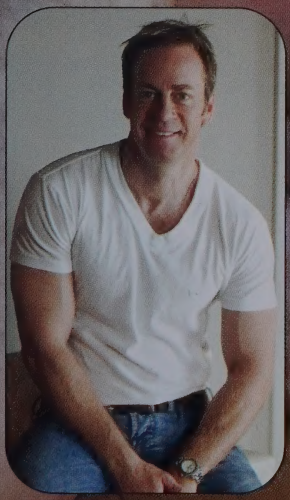
What do you think keeps other guys attracted to you once they get to know you? That I am real and consistent

What's the longest relationship you've had, and how did it change you? 6 years — it allowed me to grow up emotionally.

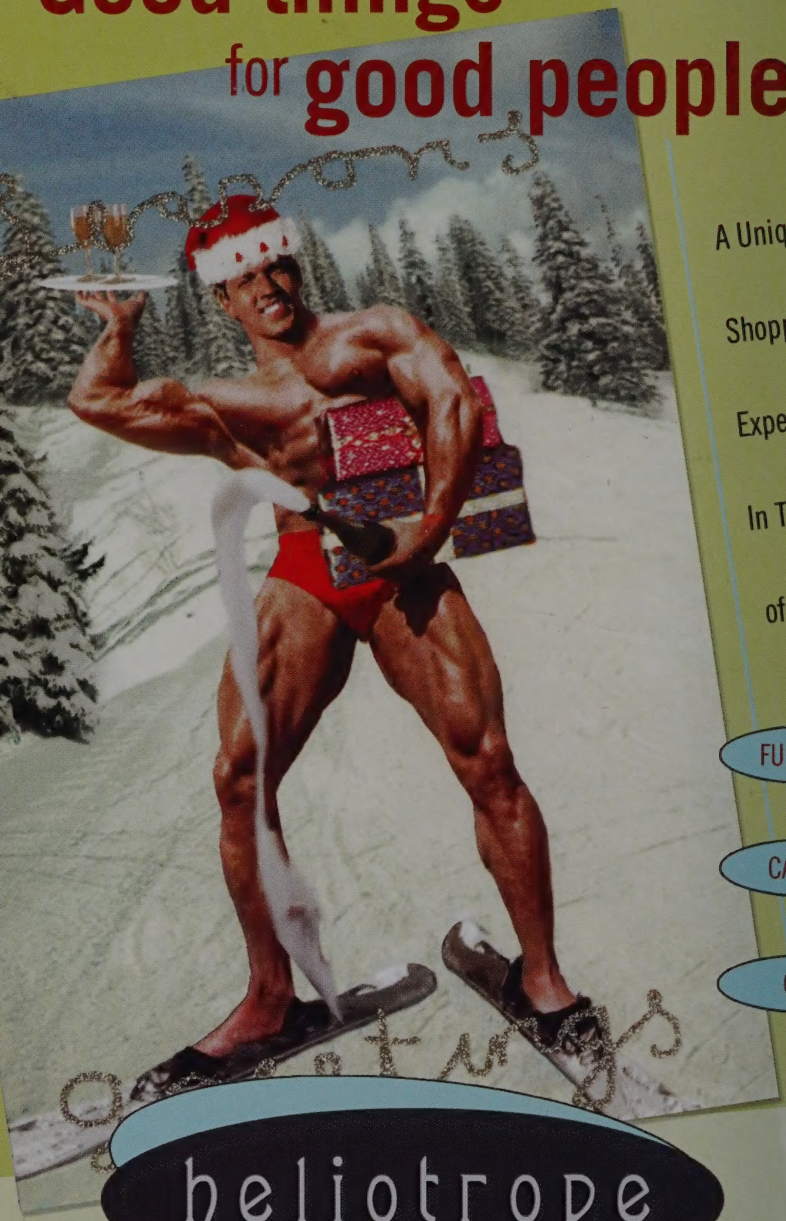
What's the most powerful lesson you've learned ? Everyone walks their own path, and you must honor that.

What defines our "gay generation" for you? Freedom to be ourselves. We are benefiting from the efforts of everyone who fought for that freedom.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? Be yourself, love yourself and laugh at yourself, at any age.



Good things for good people



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BRIAN DOHNER, 44

Occupation: Controller for an interior landscaping company

Relationship Status: Single

Background: Grew up in small Pennsylvania town surrounded by Amish farmland. Moved to Atlanta 11 years ago. 2006 Gay Games Gold Medal in Light Weight Masters Physique.

What do you think keeps other guys attracted to you once they get to know you? I am an honest, sincere, well-balanced man. I have a calmness about me that makes guys feel comfortable and safe around me.

What's the longest relationship you've had, and how did it change you? 7 years. It just ended recently. I grew as an individual, gaining knowledge, wisdom and patience.

How have you changed the most through the years? I have become more self confident, because I have happiness and peace within.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? Always stay true to yourself and your values.

Did you freak out when you began to realize other gay guys may perceive your age as "older"? It really did not bother me. I try to stay active in sports and with my workouts to keep my body in shape.

Besides looks, what is the most attractive trait a man can have? A good heart. This has not changed over the years.

What do you want your epitaph to say? Lover of life

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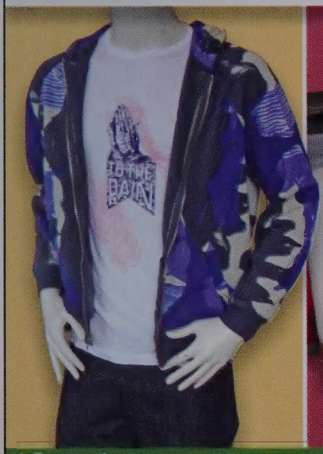

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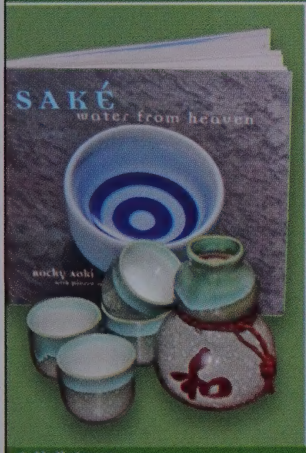

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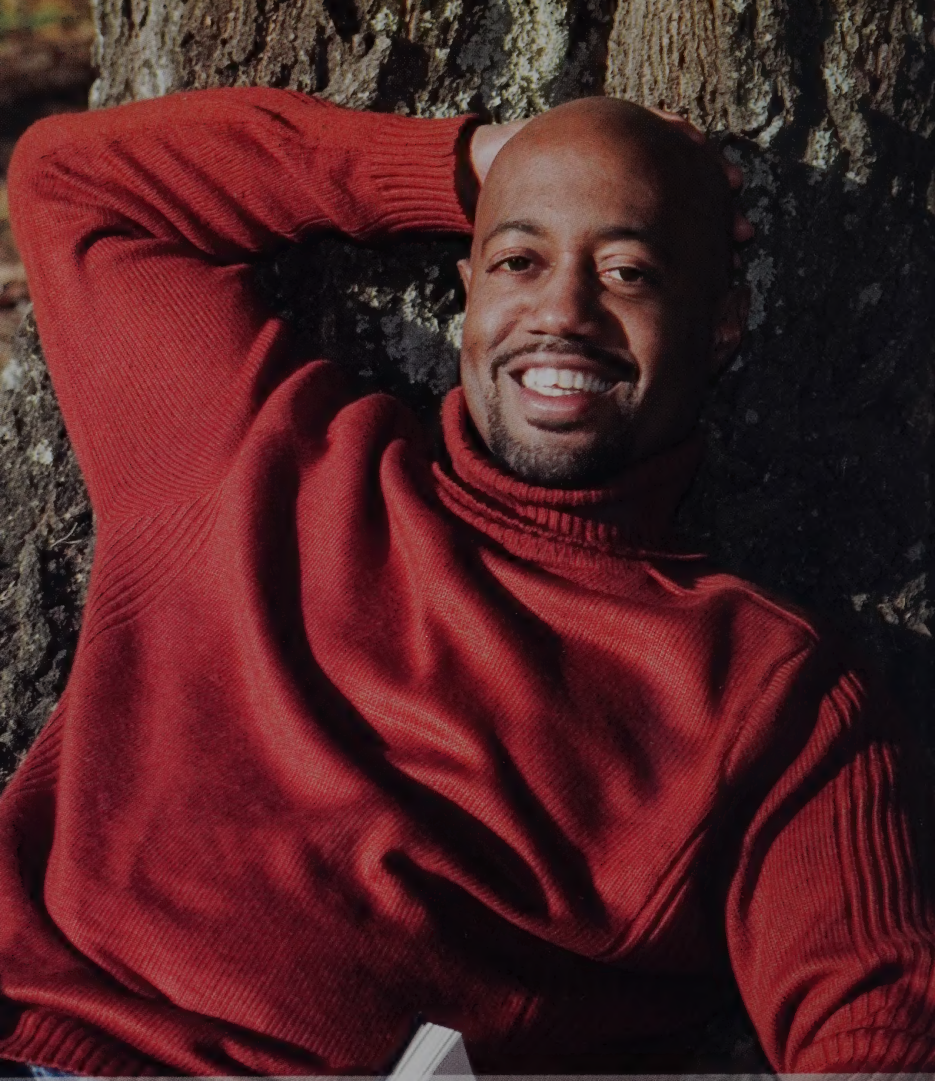


CRAIG WASHINGTON, 46

Occupation: Training Coordinator at Positive Impact

Relationship Status: Single

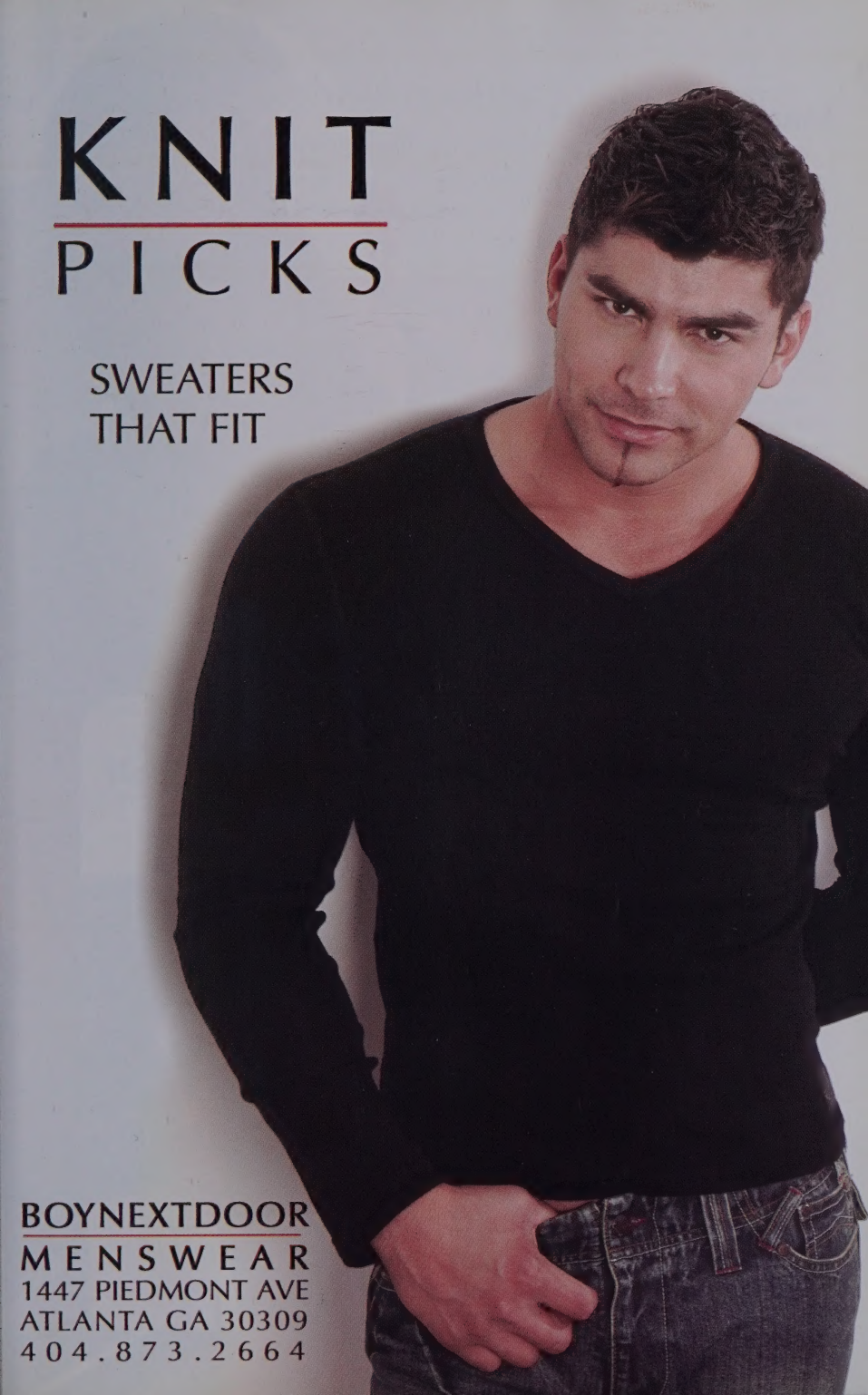
Background: I was born and raised in Queens, NYC. I've been living in Atlanta for 14 years, arriving here on the "midnight train to Georgia" (because of a romantic relationship). Been living with HIV for 21 years. The greatest gift I received from Atlanta is the constellation of friends who have become my local family.

Community Insterests: Social Justice. Helping to create a world where we are free to be fully human and recognize ourselves in each other. All my life I have been a writer, and my site is www.craigwerks.com. I have an essay included in the new anthology "Not In My Family: AIDS in the African American Community," and I am one of the organizers for the Bayard Rustin Breakfast on MLK Weekend.

What is the most interesting thing about you? That I do not believe in quitting!

What is your motto? "Your crown is already bought and paid for. All you must do is put it on your head." - James Baldwin.

What do you want your epitaph to say? He enjoyed his life fully and did not let his fear stop him from living and loving as if he had nothing to lose.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MARK HUMBLE, 41

Occupation: Corporate trainer

Background: BA in Business Administration, Cincinnati. Lived in the South for the past 20 years. Close to my family.

Extracurricular Activities: Friends, working out, HIV-related causes

Relationship Status: Single

What surprises most people about you? That I'm a nice guy, I won't beat them up, and I can cook.

How big a part does "gay" play in your life? It does not define me entirely as a person, but it does have a significant role in shaping who I am.

Besides looks, what is the most attractive trait a man can have? How has your answer changed over the years? At 20, it was all about the look. At 30, whatever my friends told me was an attractive trait. At 35, a job. At 40, someone like-minded.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? Don't get caught up in others' lives. Live your own, and be true to yourself. Stop using up energy on what might be and enjoy what is now.

What's the most powerful lesson you've learned? There are no mistakes in life, only lessons in moving forward. Instead of looking back on challenging times as "bad," look at them as learning experiences that have helped create the life you have now.

What defines your "gay generation"? Our generation dealt with a tremendous amount of change and in some cases adversity. I think many of us worked hard to appear "normal." HIV/AIDS was a huge part of that. Younger guys today ... are coming out earlier and experiencing gay life in a way that many of us did not experience until our late 20s.

What do you want your epitaph to say? That was a blast! What's next?

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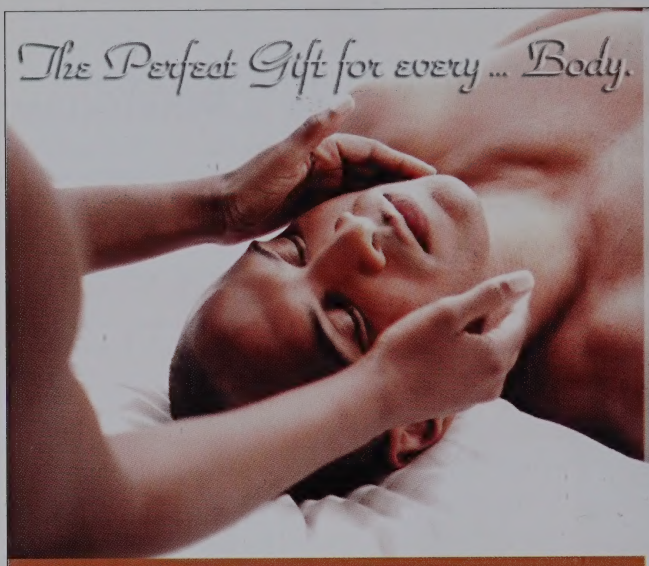

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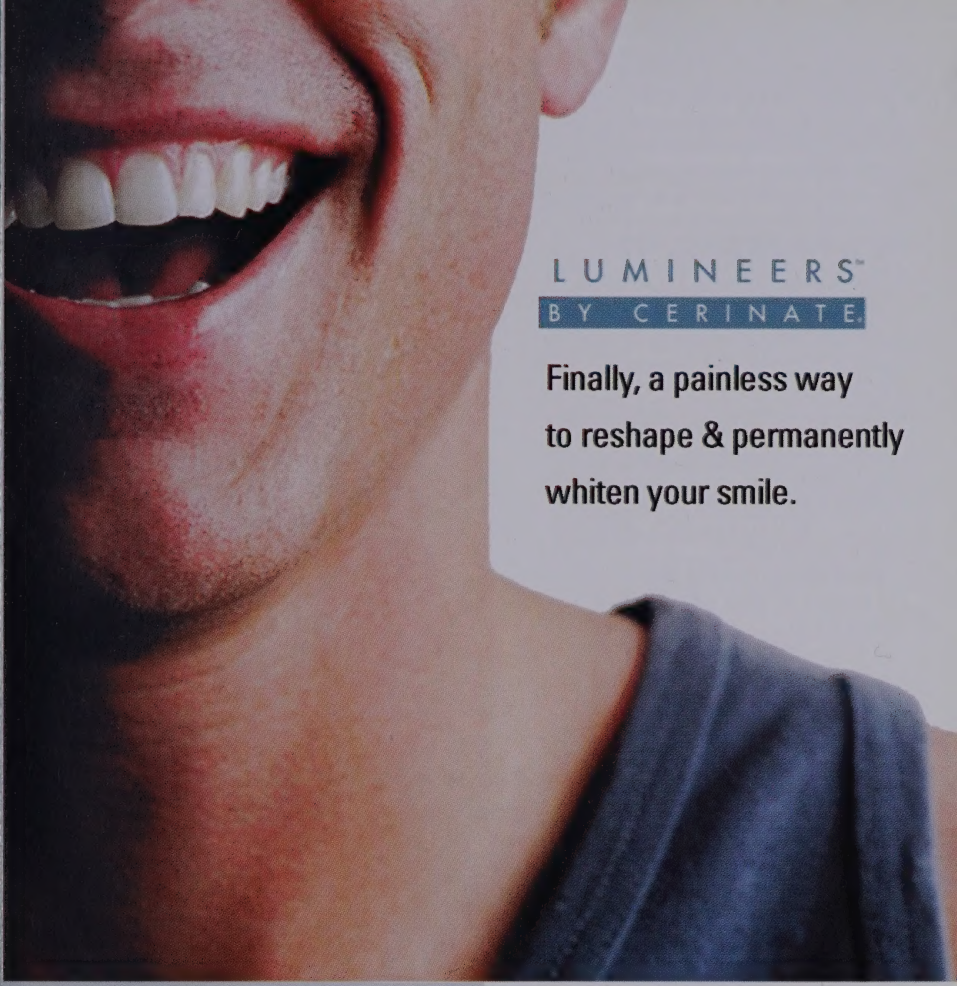

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ROB HANISKO, 43

Occupation: Software Engineer

Relationship Status: Single

Background: Born in Passaic, N.J., graduated Columbia University with a B.A. in computer science

What do you do for fun? Travel. Theater. Movies. Cooking. Working out. Art collecting.

What is your motto? "Make the most of what you have. And Photoshop the rest."

What do you dream of that you haven't attained yet? Having my picture appear in one of the most widely read gay publications in the southeast. Oh, wait. Check!

How big a part does "gay" play in your life? What? Do you mean like in inches?

What's the most powerful lesson you've learned? Don't be surprised if you wake up one day and find that everything you've ever known, felt and believed, is simply wrong. But no need to worry. The human spirit has a tremendous capacity to heal, to learn and to grow.

Did you freak out when you began to realize other gay guys may perceive your age as "older"? Nah. It was easy. You can renew your Gay Card by mail these days. All I had to do was send in my check and change one checkbox from "Twink" to "Daddy".

TODD SHELL, 41

Occupation: Programmer for The Boeing Company

Relationship Status: Married, together one and a half years

Background: Born in Indiana, Purdue graduate, spent 18 years in California, moved to Atlanta this year

What surprises most people about you? I'm relatively quiet and shy until I get to know someone.

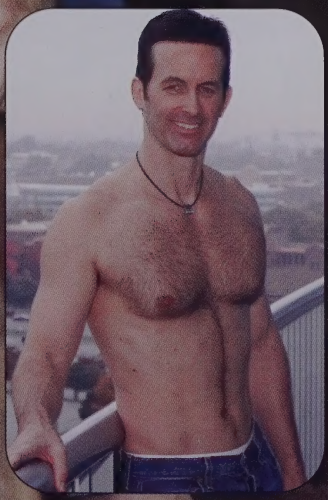
How big a part does "gay" play in your life? Gay doesn't define me, but it's a big part of me. I spent too many years hiding my true self, and now I've had 9 years to really be who I am, with every year getting better and better.

What's the longest relationship you've had? I was married to a woman for 8 years.

What's the most powerful lesson you've learned? Tomorrow is not promised, so live life as much as you can today.

Did you freak out when you began to realize other gay guys may perceive your age as "older"? I've always thought older guys were sexy.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? Don't take things for granted. A lot of things we enjoy today as gay men are due to the struggles of earlier generations.



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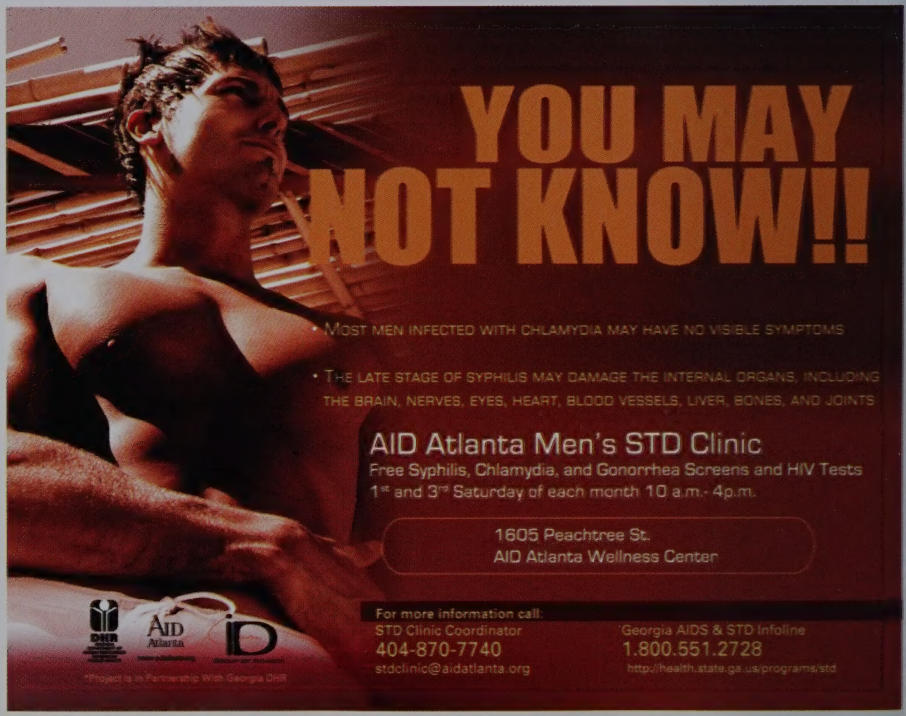
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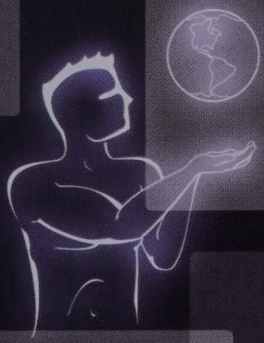

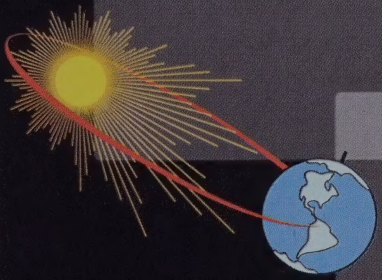

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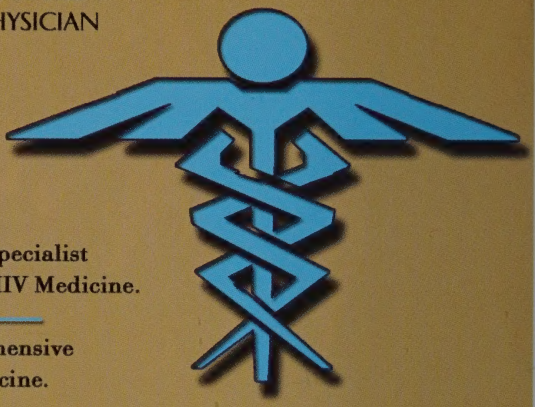

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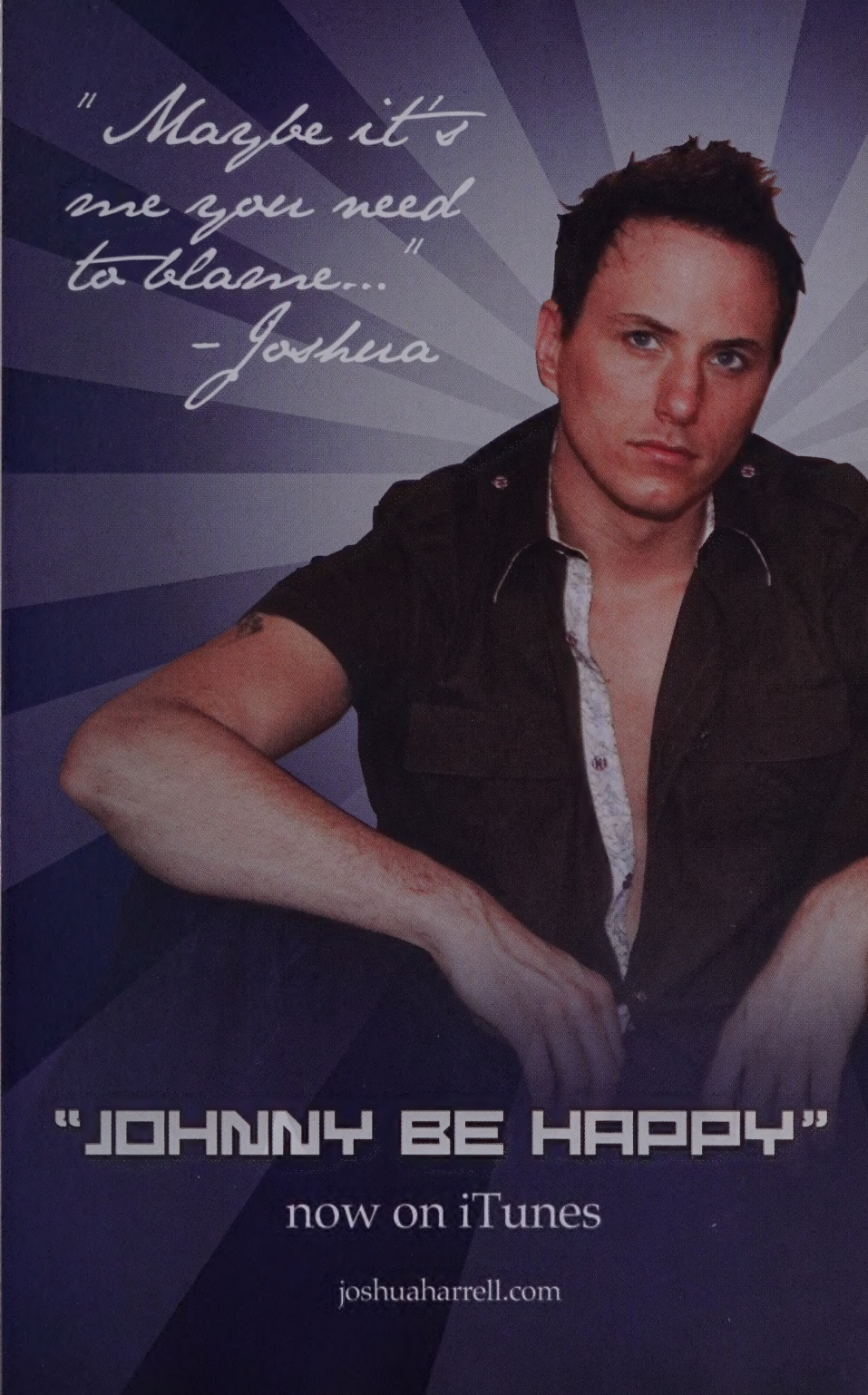
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JERRY EDWARDS, 46

Occupation: Fitness Factory gym owner

Background: Born and raised in Danville, IL, graduated from the University of Illinois, and lived in Chicago six years before moving to Atlanta in 1990.

Relationship Status: 18 years. I met my partner in 1988 at Hotlanta Raft Race and dated long distance two years before moving to Atlanta.

What is your motto? Life can be filled with negative energy and it can be filled with positive energy—it's what you decide it is going to be.

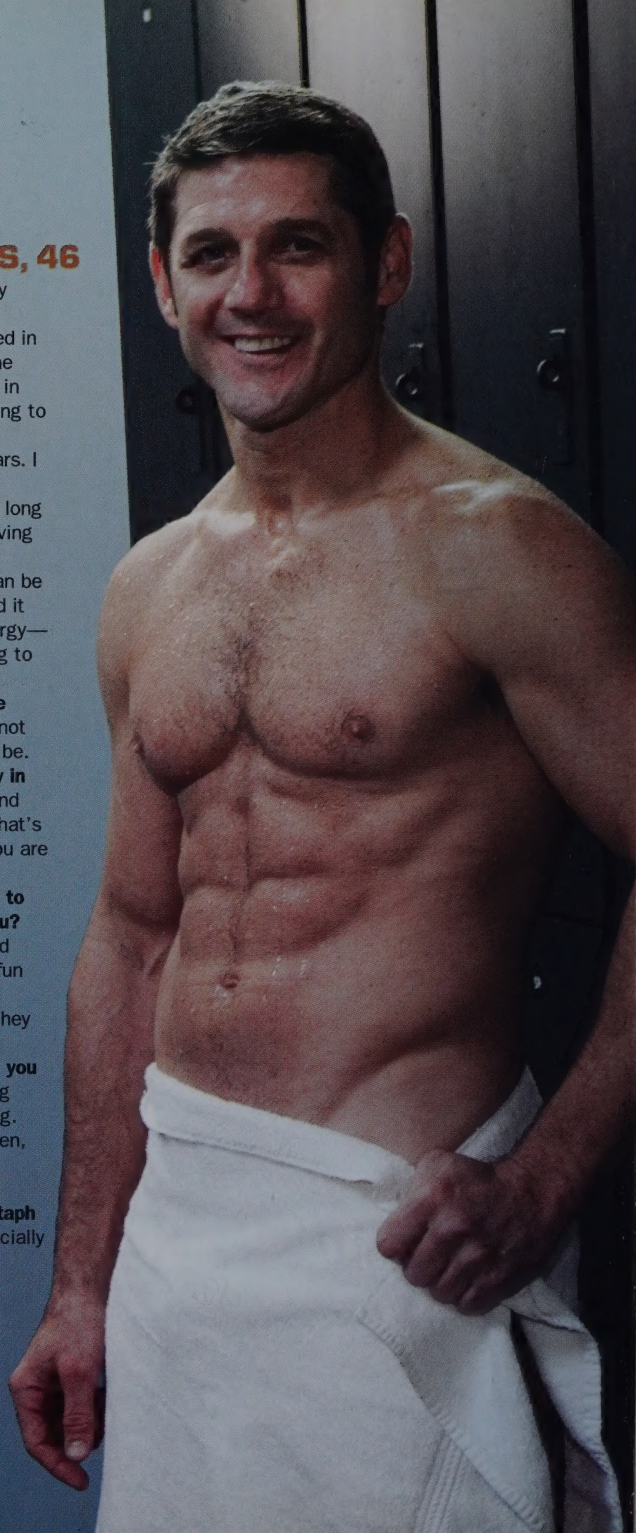
What surprises most people about you? Probably that I'm not as dumb as I might appear to be.

What's your biggest priority in life? To create my own path and enjoy the people in my life. What's a job with a lot of money, if you are not enjoying it?

What keeps guys attracted to you once they get to know you? Being non-judgmental, real and willing to listen. Also, having fun and having a sense of humor. People come back to places they have fun.

What's the best part about you passing the 40 mark? Showing that I'm still living and learning. Using the word "No" more often, and not caring whether I'm pleasing people.

What do you want your epitaph to say? He really cared, especially about people.



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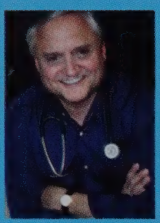

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TONY DESARIO, 44

Occupation: Entertainer/entrepreneur

Relationship Status: Partnered for three and a half years

Background: In Atlanta for 25 years. I left in the '80s to work in Las Vegas lounges for three years. Named Mr. Continental 2006. My partner and I plan to open a boutique in Marietta before the end of the year.

What is your motto? I have two. "Become the one you dream you can be," and Ghandi's quote, "Become the change you wish to see in the world."

What surprises most people about you? That I love football and Country music

How have you changed over years? In my 20s, things were so spastic. In my 30s, things were so awkward. My 40s have been the best by far. I still feel 25, and I have taken good care of myself.

What's the most powerful lesson you've learned? Watch who you trust, choose your friends wisely, and above all, giving is so much more rewarding than receiving.

What defines your "gay generation"? Compassion, for what we have been through with the AIDS epidemic. To watch so many step up to the plate during those real hard times in the late '80s and early '90s.

What's the best part about you passing the 40 mark? It just all seems to make more sense. I don't stress about things as much anymore.

What else would you like to say to gay Atlanta? Stop being so negative and mean to each other. Try and extend the love, courtesy and understanding you say you want others to extend to you. Remember that diversity is what we are striving for.

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JD JR MUSCULAR THERAPY

malik m.l. williams, 42

Occupation: Photographer, performer, HIV prevention counselor

Relationship Status: Committed relationship with my partner, Troy, for more than seven years.

Extracurricular Activities: I am a voracious reader. I also spend much of my time advocating for the health and well being of black gay men in Atlanta.

Background: Originally from Detroit, Mich. Living in Atlanta for 15 years. I come from a very supportive family. When I finally came out to my parents, my father said, "Well it's about time you told us. I've known since you were three."

What is the most interesting thing about you? That I changed careers after 40? That I used to be a professional Sign Language Interpreter? That I fell asleep while taking my SATs and still qualified me for Mensa? That I'm a closet Harry Potter fan?

What do you dream of that you haven't attained yet? Helping to establish the Tony Daniels Community Center in Atlanta. Tony was a visionary, a writer, an activist and a coalition-builder. He was also one of my best friends and a constant inspiration.

How big a part does "gay" play in your life? I've been fortunate enough to live as an out black gay man for many years, and at times to have everything in my life revolve around that: jobs, relationships, volunteer and community involvement. Being gay is as much a part of me as being black or being male.

What is the most attractive trait in a man? Intelligence. Someone to can have a conversation with, who can challenge me and who can think for himself.

Did you freak out when you began to realize other gay guys may perceive your age as "older"? Hey, I earned the gray hairs and the smile lines and every scar on my body. I'm proud of the fact that I made it to be this old. I take it as a badge of honor that I've lived this long, in spite of the statistical suggestions to the contrary.

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RON POWELL, 48

Occupation: Director of procurement

Relationship Status: Connected for 4.5 years

Background: Grew up in Manassas, Va., graduated from Furman University, and came to Atlanta just after Sherman left.

What is your motto? "Never say Never"

What keeps guys attracted to you? I'm very loyal, and genuinely a very nice guy.

What's the longest relationship you've had? I was married for 16 years prior to coming out. I have a good friend and two wonderful kids because of it.

What do you dream of that you haven't attained yet? Living in a foreign country for a year or two.

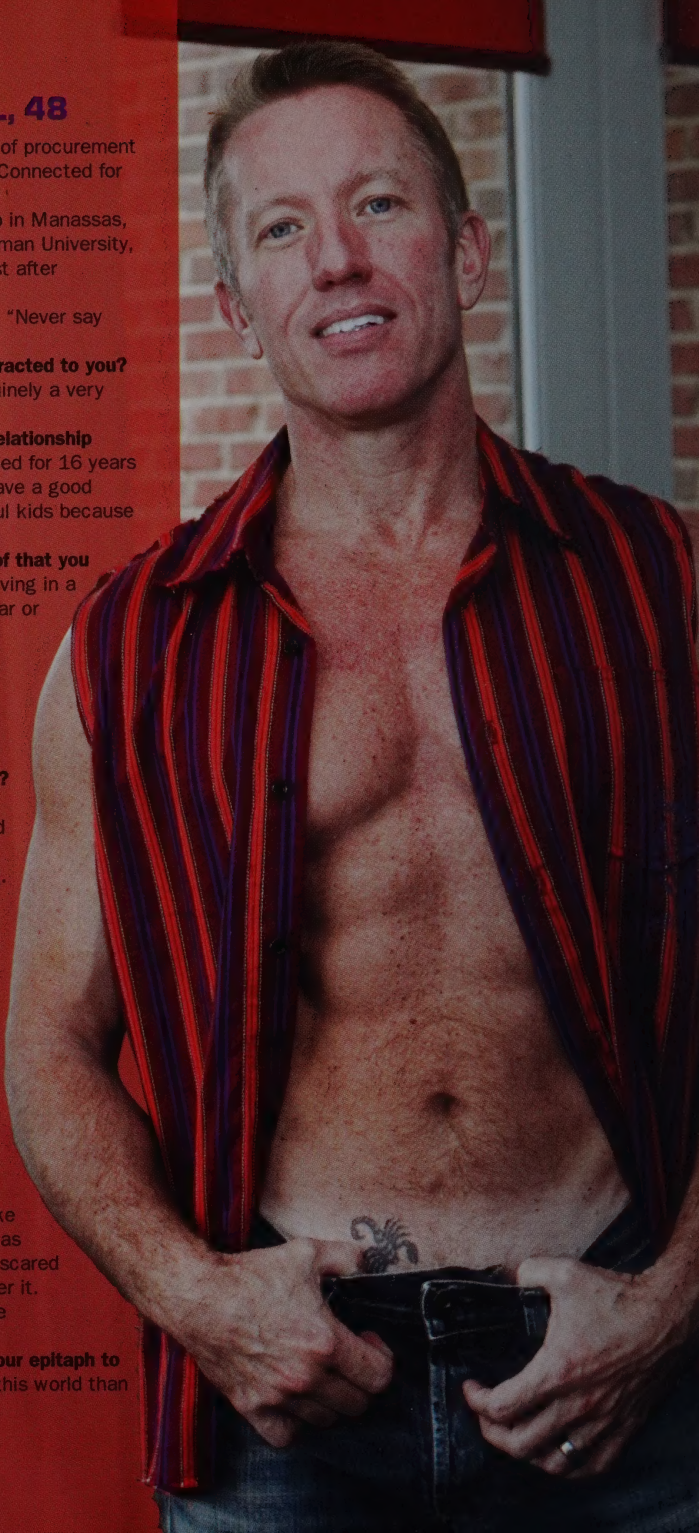
What's your biggest priority in life? My partner, family and friends

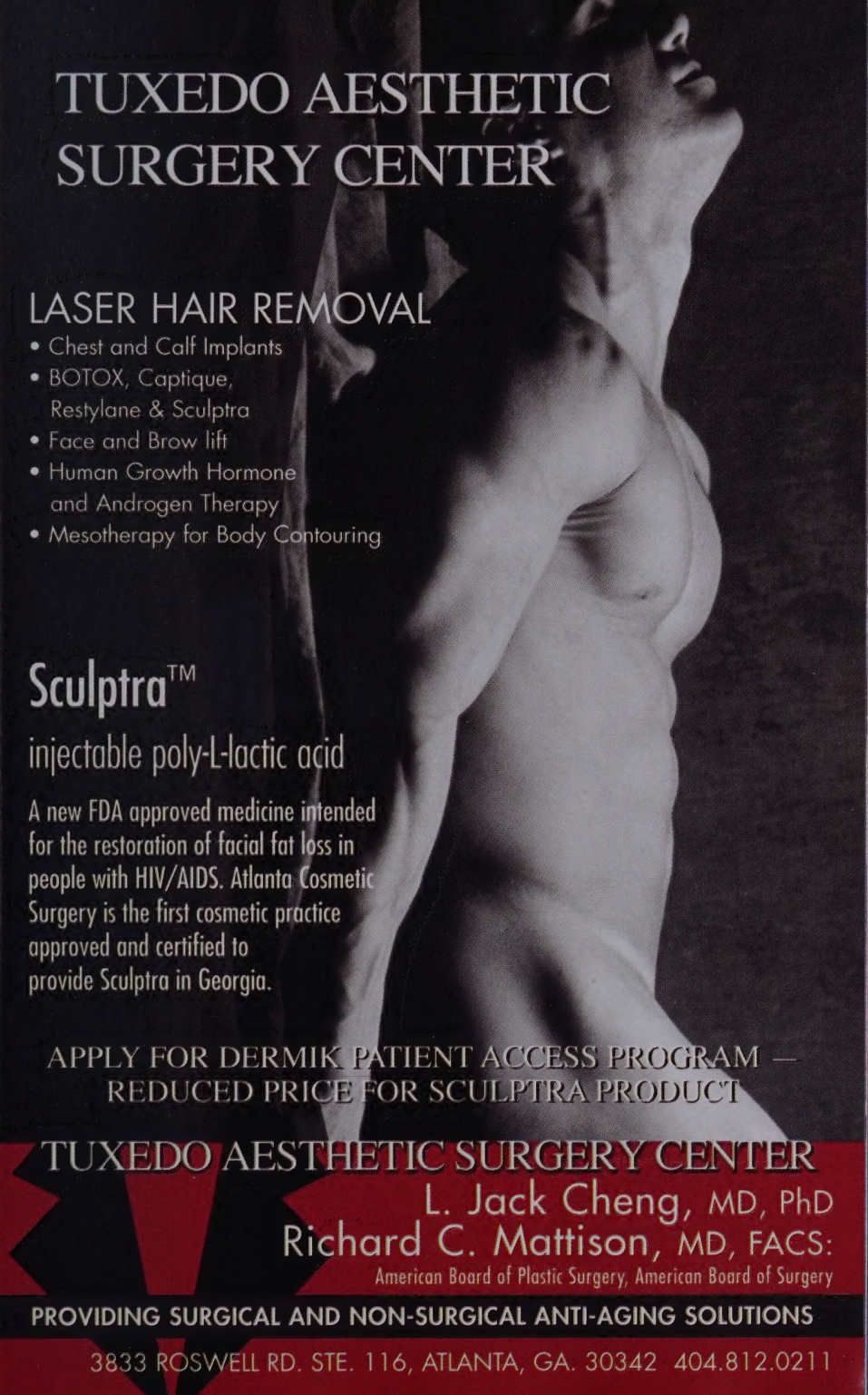
How have you changed over the years? Since I came out, my friends and family would say I'm more fun, confident, and outgoing.

What's the most powerful lesson you've learned? Understanding how lucky I am after seeing the poverty in Third World countries. Not taking the wealth and freedoms we have for granted.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? Everything in moderation. It will make you appreciate it more as you get older. If you're scared of getting older, get over it. Growing older beats the alternative.

What do you want your epitaph to say? He gave more to this world than he took away.

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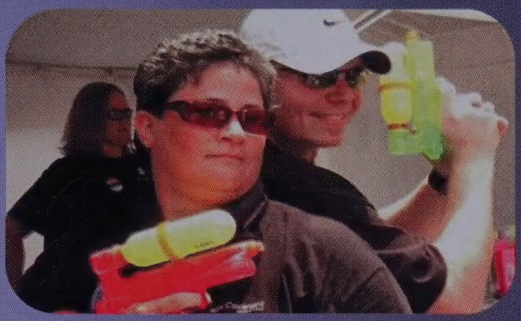

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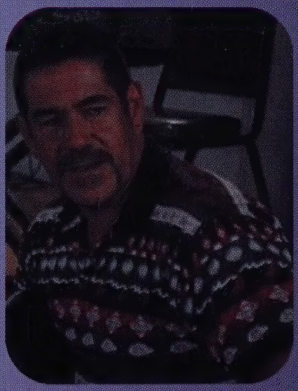

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RON ROSA, 42

Occupation: Advocacy for Hispanic/Latinos living with HIV/AIDS

Background: Hometown is San Sebastian, Puerto Rico. One of eight siblings. BA in Psychology with a minor in Education from the University of Puerto Rico. My immediate family is my loving partner (of 10 years) Steve Balfour, and our two little terrors, Fabi, a 10-year old cocker spaniel, and Rover, a 2-year old beagle mix. I like to call them my three boys.

Occupation: Positive Impact

Relationship Status: Currently in a 10-year relationship, the one that I hope that will be the one for what I have left to live. "I love you, siempre, papi."

What is the most interesting thing about you? My life. Facing death in two occasions, and the impact it has had in my way of living

What surprises most people about you? My survival skills

How big a part does "gay" play in your life? I love the fact that I am gay ... I am well aware that I need to thank those that made themselves heard in the past in order for me to have the life I am able to live today. Gay is part of my life, but I am a person first.

What is the most attractive trait a man can have? Has your answer to that question changed as you got older? In the 20s sense of style, in the 30s sensible, in the 40s self-confidence.

What's your biggest priority in life? The present moment

Did you freak out when you began to realize other gay guys may perceive your age as "older"? I believe that gay men in particular are like a good wine; we get better with age. Not the physical aspect, but the essence of self, who we become as a result of our experiences.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys, specifically those who may fear growing older? Do not take your youth for granted. Try to make a positive change in someone's life.

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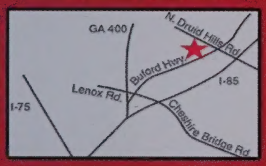

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FRANK SANTORE, 42

Occupation: Certified Massage Therapist, residential mortgage loan consultant

Extracurricular Activities: Big Brothers-Big Sisters

Background: BS in Hotel-Restaurant Management from University of Houston.

Hometown: Lakewood, NJ. Twin brother to my sister Katie, youngest of five children in an unconditionally loving family.

Relationship Status: Hate to be cryptic but, I'm a one-man kind of guy; waiting for someone to "believe" in again. I'll leave it at that.

What is your motto? The golden rule, "do unto others..." Anyone who knows me understands these are not just words, but more, my foundation.

What surprises most people about you? How a big guy like me can be such gentle person

How big a part does "gay" play in your life? An early influence told me, "Embrace being gay, don't let it define you."

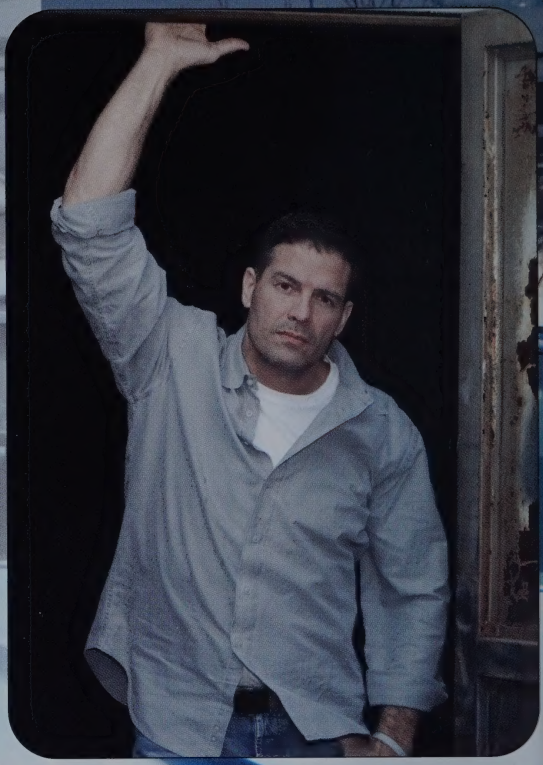
What's your biggest priority? To take care of me. It's taken a lifetime to learn.

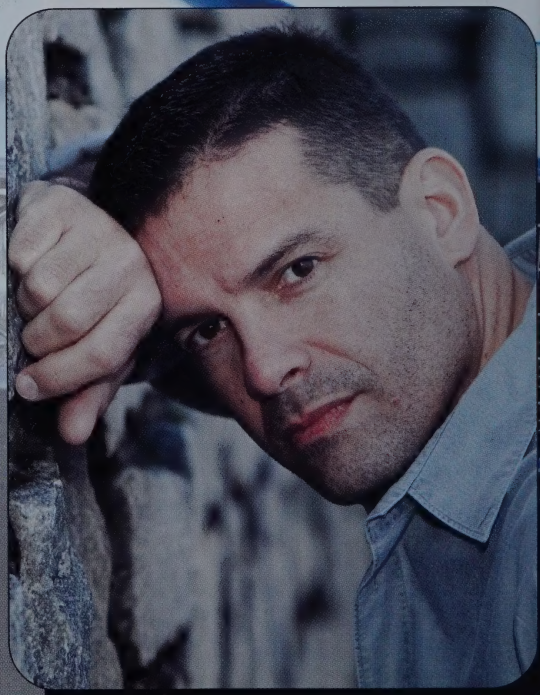
What's the longest relationship you've had, and how did it change you? Ten years. It made me never settle for less. Despite the hardships, I can only feel the good times and the love.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? My Dad use to tell me, "Stop trying to learn everything the hard way. Learn by example; it doesn't hurt as much!" Wish I would have listened.

What defines our "gay generation" for you? "Survival." I have several friends that didn't. I lost them, either through HIV/AIDS, suicide or drugs. Somehow we did. Keep the lessons close, guys. Please, the sacrifice was paid in the blood of our brothers!

What do you want your epitaph to say? A kind and gentle friend. His heart loved many well.





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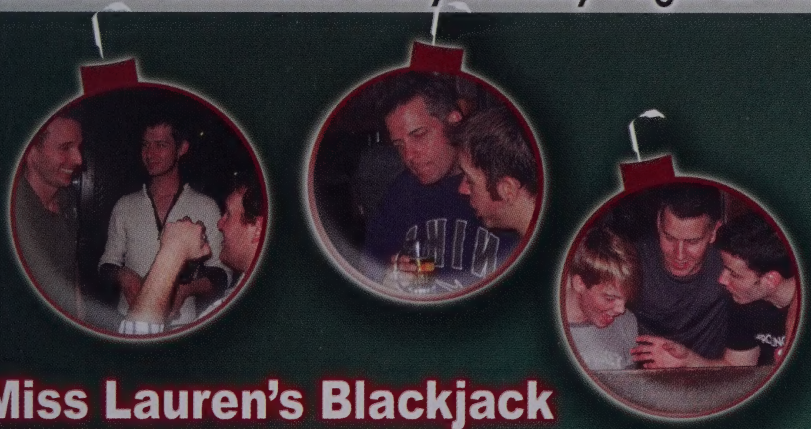

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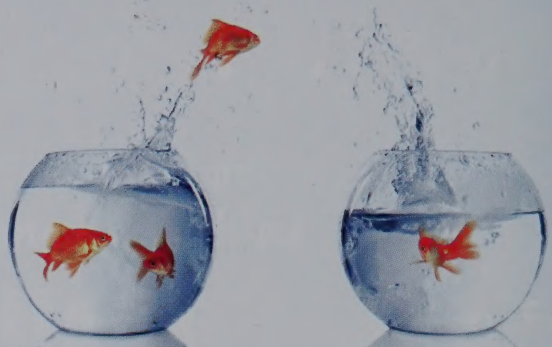

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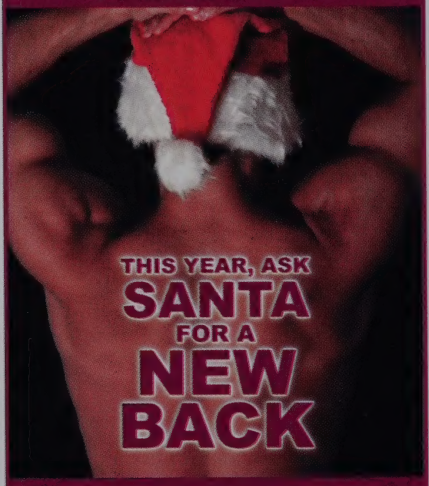

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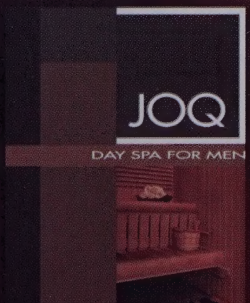

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WARM AND FUZZY

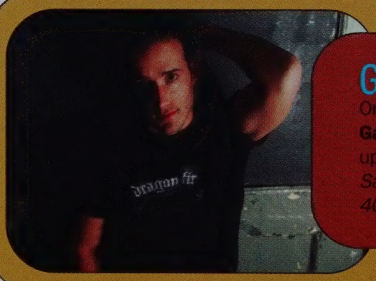
Universal Gear celebrates the holidays with a special donation package where $5 of each sweater sold goes to Until There's a Cure, benefiting HIV/AIDS research and awareness. *Through Sunday, Dec. 24 at Universal Gear, 935 Peachtree St. 404-872-5700, www.universalgear.com*

LATE NIGHT BREAKDOWN

Ovah! Productions does it again, this week bringing DJ superstar **Tracy Young** to the main event, with local DJ **Jason Edwards** at an afterparty for those who just can't quit. *Saturday, Dec. 16, Young, 10 p.m. at Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Road. 404-844-8800, www.jungleclub.net. Edwards, 2:30 a.m. at Spice, 793 Juniper St. 404-875-4242, www.ovahproductions.com*

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Local film gay company Gypsy Lar screens their latest work **'The Books of John,'** a movie shot in familiar settings like Red Chair and Piedmont Park about a man who discovers his deceased partner's diaries. *Saturday, Dec. 16 at Red Chair, 550-C Amsterdam Ave. 404-870-0532, www.redchairatlanta.com*



GET THE FIRE GOING

One of our favorite out-of-towners, **DJ Joe Gauthreaux**, mans the turntables to heat things up during the chilly December weekend. *Saturday, Dec. 16 at WETbar, 960 Spring St. 404-745-9494, www.wetbaratlanta.com*

12.14 TRAVEL EXPO: HX Media presents the Gay Life Travel Expo featuring vendors to help fulfill your every gay travel wish. *4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at The Marriott Marquis, 265 Peachtree Center Ave. www.gaylifetravelexpo.com*

12.15 HOLIDAY CHEER: The First Metropolitan Community Church presents its 'Canticle of Christmas' holiday musical with a fundraising silent auction. *Friday, Dec. 15, Saturday Dec. 16 and Monday Dec. 18, 8 p.m. at the First MCC, 1379 Tullie Road. 404-325-4143, www.firstmcc.org*

The **Congregation Bet Haverim** Chorus celebrates the release of their debut CD on the first night of Hanukkah. *6:30 p.m. at Central Congregational United Church of Christ, 2676 Clairmont Road. www.congregationbethaverim.org*

12.17 STREISAND MARATHON: PBA30 airs 'Yentl,' at 2 p.m., 'Great Performances: My Name is Barbra,' at 4:30 p.m. and 'Color Me Barbra' at 5 p.m. *Comcast channel 11, www.wabe.org*

12.15 II DIVO: Can't get enough of the world's most popular opera act? PBS rebroadcasts their "Broadway" series featuring Il Divo for three consecutive weeks. *8 p.m. on PBA30, Comcast Channel 11. www.wpba.org*

BRUNCH GIVING: Gay-owned **Radial** restaurant donates 20 percent of all checks to Positive Impact each Saturday in December. *Through Dec. 31 at 1530 Dekalb Ave. 404-659-6594, www.radial.us*

NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

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AMSTERDAM. All-day Smirnoff martini specials.
BJ ROOSTERS. Drive-in Comedy & Pizza with Scotty
BLAKE'S. Crazy Sexy Cool with Shawnna Brooks, Genre, Regina Ryan and weekly guests. 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Dance music with Dave Stoddard.
CLUB 708. Male/female review, dance party, 18+, 10 p.m.
EAGLE. Underwear Night with DJ Randy
FELIX'S. Karaoke with Johnny P. & Brett, 10 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Tini Thursdays, martini specials
HALO. 'Boys Night Out' resident DJ Brandon Sutton.
HERETIC. Rapture with DJ Rick Walsh 10 p.m., no cover.
HOEDOWNS. Free kickin' line dance lesson, 8 p.m..
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. "Bad Boyz, Bad Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Rotating weekly theme nights.
MISS Q'S. AID Atlanta hosts POOL discussion the first three Thursdays of every month at 7:30 p.m.
MODEL T. Karaoke with Johnny P.
OSCARS. Country Thursdays Cowboys 'N Margaritas.
RED CHAIR. Soulvation with DJ Quasi Mandisco
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2 for 1 at door & VIP rooms
TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. College Night
WOOFS. Daily Food Specials

FRI 12.15

AMSTERDAM. DJ Van Cronkhite weekly residency, dance floor opens at 9 p.m.
BJ ROOSTERS. BJ Boi Dancers with Hotrod and Scotty
BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba and Jeffery, 7:30 p.m., DJ Rob Reum afterwards.
BURKHART'S. Mary Edith Pitts' Friday Show, 11:30.
CHAPARRAL. Latin Night with DJ Carlos, 10 p.m. - 4 a.m.
CLUB 708. Blackout Fridays, DJ JFK, male and female review, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
EAGLE. Free draft beer if in code with DJ Coqui.
FELIX'S. 'Divas @ Felix's,' 11 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Frisky Friday's-Music and Friends
HERETIC. DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m.
JUNGLE. DV8 Goth Night, 10:30 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Nicole Paige Brooks and Girlzz of LeBuzz talent competition, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Boys' Room" with Stewart, 9 p.m.
MODEL T. Divas of Delusion.
OPUS 1. Black Out Party, 10 p.m.
OSCARS. Afternoon showtunes. "Martinis, Men & Music Videos," 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Hip Hop Night with DJ Liz & DJ Gee
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. "2-4-1 T-Shirt Review."
WETbar. Charlie Brown's Cabaret, 11 p.m., $5

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62

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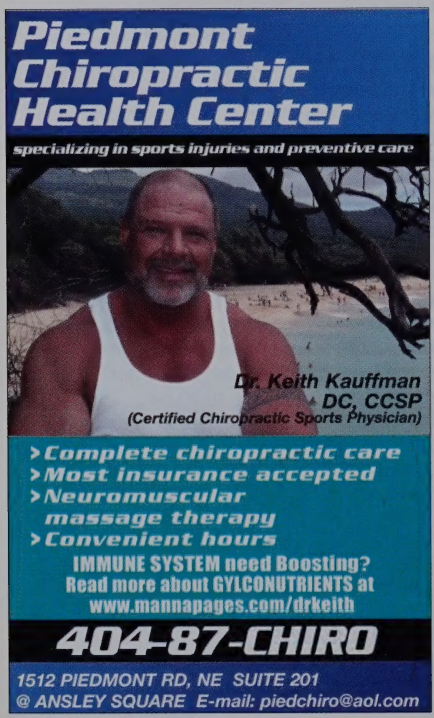
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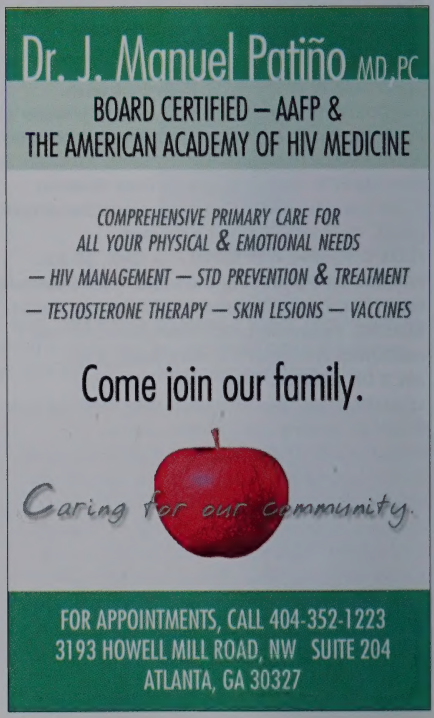
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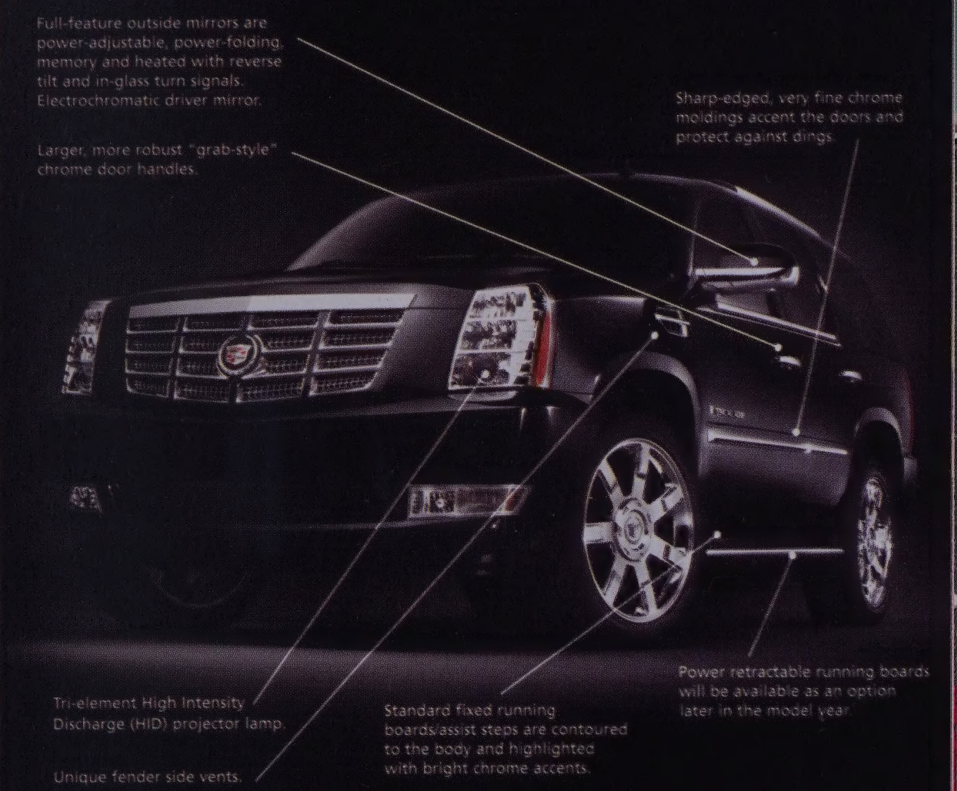
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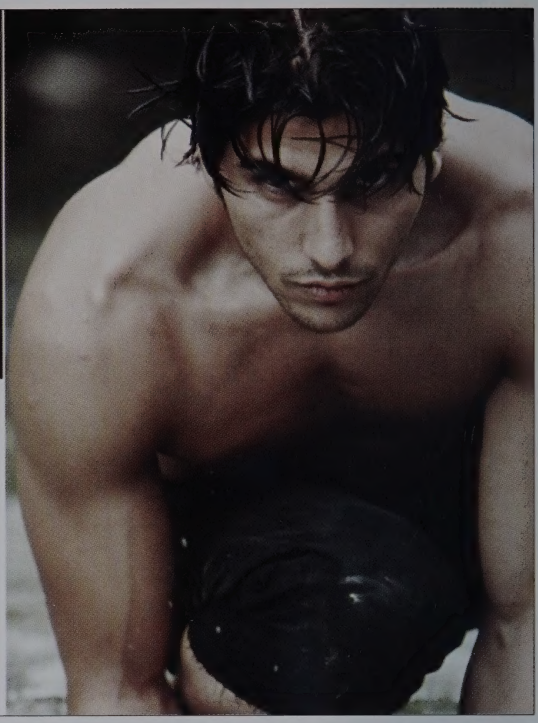

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57

SAT 12.16

AMSTERDAM. Dance floor open, 9 p.m.
BJ ROOSTERS. Start Here Saturday with Greg, Scotty and HotRod
BLAKE'S. Jealouse's Daring Divas weekly special guests, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. 'Saturday Showcase,' 11:30 p.m.
CLUB 708. Knockout Saturday. go-go dancers. 10p.m., 18 & up.
EAGLE. DJ Coqui
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Summer Fling drink specials.
FELIX'S. Mega Margaritas
HERETIC. DJ Brian Beck at 9 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Free Two Step lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. College Football
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz," 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. The MODEL Tzz Girls.
OSCARS. High energy videos w/VJ Das Wright, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Ladies Night with DJ Liz and drag kings
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRIPPS. 1st and 3rd Saturdays: Linda Michaels' "Showcase Showdown," 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m
WETBAR. Submerge party with guest DJ, $10 Cover

SUN 12.17

AMSTERDAM. T-Dance, 6 p.m. with guest DJ.
BJ ROOSTERS. Sundies in your Undies Eye Candy. The werking stiffs with BossMan Bobby and Greg
BLAKE'S. "Big Time!" drag revue with Shabazz, Jealousé, Myah Monroe, and guests.
BULLDOGS. Old school, house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Armorettes , 9 p.m.
CENTRAL PARK CLUB AND BISTRO. Grown and Sexy. Male review. 7pm. 5231 Memorial Drive
CHAPARRAL. Hip Hop Night with Maxine Blue, DJ Smash and The Dreams, 10 p.m.
CLUB 708. Afterparty, 18 & up, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
CLUB EUROPE. The Lion's Den Presents "Erotic Sunday's." Hip-Hp and R&B. 8 p.m. – 3 a.m.
FELIX'S. Bloody Mary's/Mimosas
FRIENDS ON PONCE. 'Family Reunion BBQ,' 3 p.m.
MISS Q'S. Free Pool.
RED CHAIR. WasUpNatl Fushion
STAGE DOOR. T-dance 3-6 p.m., 1st and 3rd Sun.: The Tuckerettes, 2nd and 4th: The Stage Door Divas.

MON 12.18

AMSTERDAM. Industry Night, 9 p.m.
BJ ROOSTERS. Strip Glow Pool or Come Watch.
BLAKE'S. Drag on the Edge with Princess Charles. 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Tyler, midnight.
EAGLE. Free pool.
FELIX'S. Martinis/Movie & Trivia, 8:30 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Free pool, noon to close.
HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Monday night football, drink specials
JUNGLE. Salsa dance class, $5, 7-10 p.m. "Stars of the Century" w/Niesha Dupree, 11 p.m. $7 cover.
LeBUZZ. "Lady LeBuzz" kings and drag

queens with Heather Daniels, 10 p.m.
MARQUETTE. Peek-a-boo male review. 18 & up, 10pm. 868 Simpson Road.
MARY'S. "Jump Start"with guest DJ's and video game showdowns.
MISS Q'S. Free Pool.
NICKIEMOTO'S. "Dragamaki" w/Bubba D. Licious, 8:45 p.m.
OSCARS. College Appreciation and Service Industry Night, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Dinner & Drag Show.
WOOFS. Texas Hold-Em.

TUE 12.19

AMSTERDAM. Showtunes, 9 p.m.
ATLANTA LIVE. Traxx's 'Thugged Out Tuesdays.'
BJ ROOSTERS. Tuffpuppy Tini Tuesdays.
BLAKE'S. "Family" Feud w/Mary Edith Pitts, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Mary Edith Pitts, 12:30 a.m.
CLUB 708. "Walk it In" Tuesdays, cash giveaway.
EAGLE. Free pool.
FELIX'S. Long Islanda Iced Teas
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Tini Tuesdays, martini specials
HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Free beginner Two Step, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Tom and company, 8 – 10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke with Alexandria Martin, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
MISS Q'S. Pool League
MODEL T. "069 Bingo" with Ken
OSCAR'S. Home of "Atlanta's Original Showtunes Tuesdays," 9 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Texas Hold 'Em, 7:30 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. $5, 8p.m.
WOOFS Daily Food Specials.

WED 12.20

AMSTERDAM. All-day Long Island Tea specials.
BJ ROOSTERS. Werk it Gurl with HotRod and Greg
BLAKE'S. "Brain Freeze" trivia w/Ruby Redd, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Mary Edith Pitts, midnight.
CLUB 708. Mini Ball Runway
CHAPARRAL. Bad Boys with host Maxine Blue.
EAGLE. Service Industry Night
FELIX'S. Virtually Famous Karaoke, 9 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Hump Day Party, music and fun.
GILBERT'S CAFE. Karaoke, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. 219 10th St.
HERETIC. Boys Night Out Dress Code Party with DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m., no cover
HOEDOWNS. Free Dance Lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Average Joe karoake contest
JUNGLE. Line dancing, 7-9 p.m., Guest performers, bartenders weekly Backdoor Party, 10 p.m.
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Video request night.
MISS Q'S. Pool League
OSCARS. Comedy Night with VJ Das Wright, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Badd Boys at Midnight
STAGE DOOR. Trivia, 9 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. $5 - 8pm.
WETbar. Ladies' Night Out.
WOOFS Trivia Night, 8 p.m.

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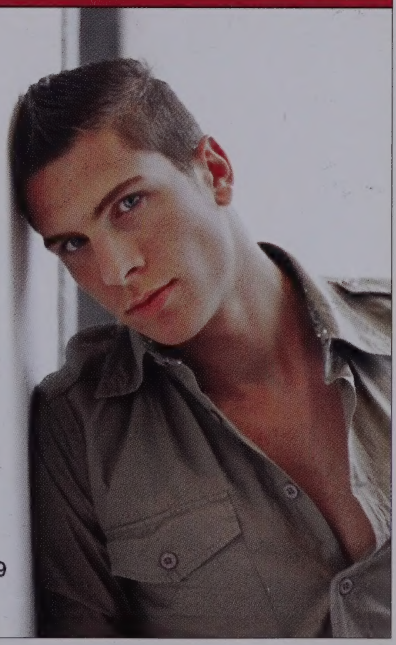

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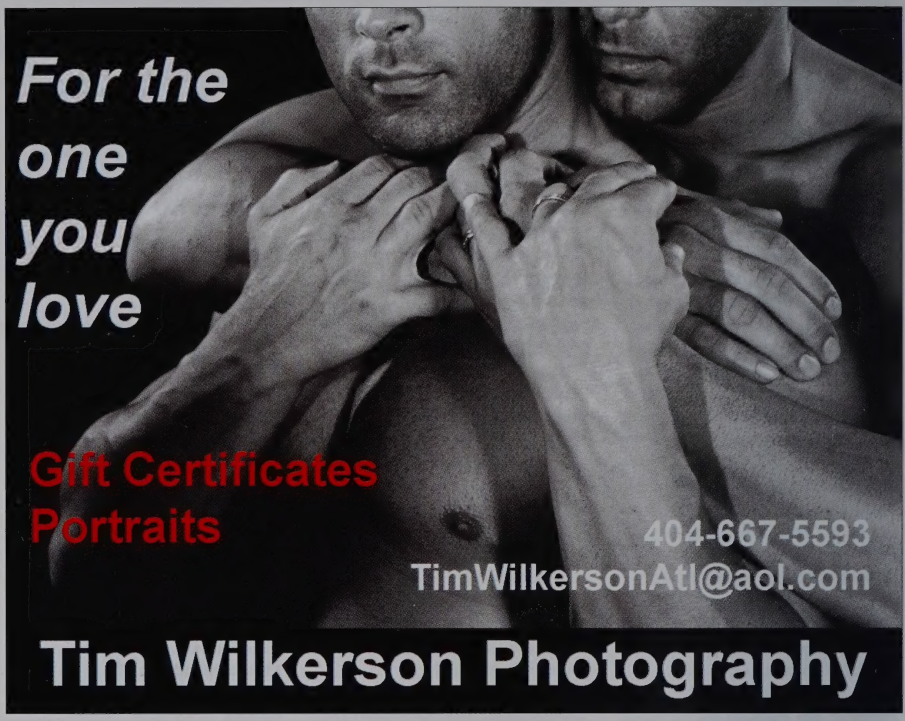

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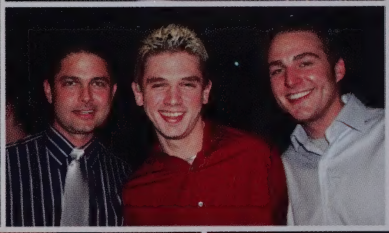
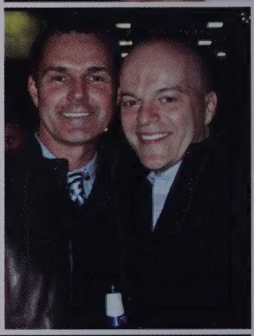
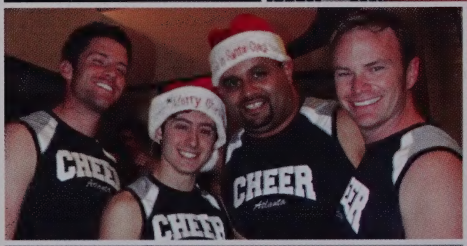
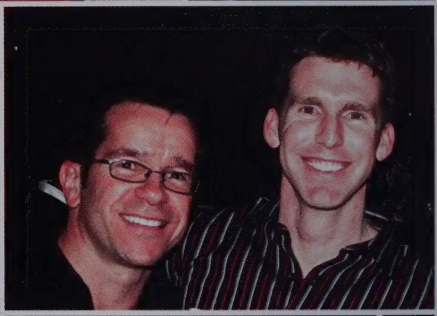

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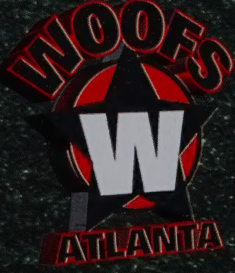

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ADVENTURES IN GAYLAND

Amazing things can come from a 'Coffee Date'

DO YOU LIKE SUGAR IN YOUR COFFEE? "Coffee Date" is a sweet comedy about two men who find they can be soul mates without being bedmates. In different ways, it's a revelation for both Todd (Jonathan Bray), who is heterosexual, and Kelly (Wilson Cruz from "Noah's Arc"), who is gay.

They meet when Todd's brother Barry (Jonathan Silverman) arranges a date for him online. Todd's trying to get back in the dating game after an ugly divorce, but Barry plays a joke on him by hooking him up on a gay website.

Todd realizes at once that Romancing the Bean is a gay café and that Kelly, with whom he's forced to share a table while both await blind dates, is not as out of place there as he is. But it takes them a while to realize they're there to meet each other.

By then, they've struck up a friendship. After all, they're both movie buffs and both coming out of relationships that ended badly.

They wind up going to a movie together. Then, to get even with his brother, Todd brings Kelly home and they make sex noises behind the bedroom door — a joke that yields positive and negative results.

Barry finally moves out of Todd's house, but he also tells their mother (played by wack-job Sally Kirkland) about Todd. She immediately flies to California for an indefinite visit. As she joins PFLAG and tries to adjust to having a gay son, Todd and Kelly continue seeing each other as friends, expanding Todd's gayrizons.

WORD THAT TODD IS GAY SPREADS THROUGH his workplace, thanks to Clayton (gay stand-up comic Jason Stuart), a fellow computer programmer who had been the token gay at the office — until Todd. No one believes Todd when he says he's straight — except Kelly, and he's still hoping for a change.

His new status makes Todd more interesting to Melissa (Deborah Gibson, whose old fans will be treated to a song at the end, along with a T-shirt homage), a co-worker he's been crushing on who dismissed him as "just another boring straight guy."

Another potential romantic interest for Todd is Bonnie (Elaine Hendrix), Kelly's housemate, "a gay man trapped in a straight woman's body."

IF THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH "Coffee Date," it's that Bray is too believable as "just another boring straight guy." He doesn't have

the ability of, say, Jack Lemmon or Jim Carrey to make ordinary interesting. Cruz is the same sweetheart he was on "My So-Called Life" and looks to have aged about a minute and a half since that show's run ended in 1995.

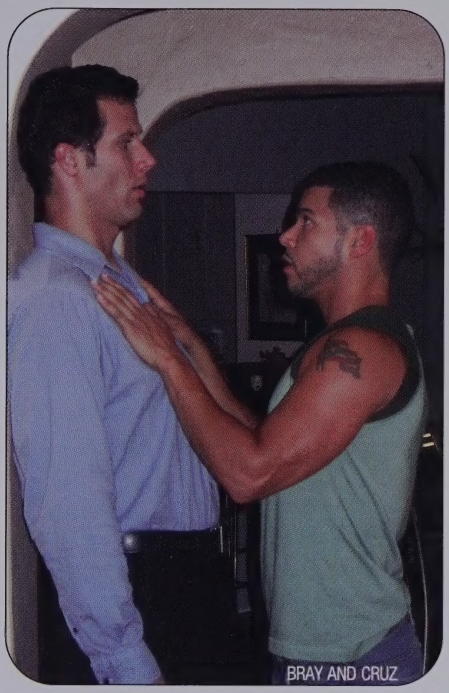
Writer-director Stewart Wade did a good job fleshing out "Coffee Date" from his 17-minute 2001 short. It could move a little faster, but it doesn't really seem padded.

If most of the plot developments are reasonably credible at this pace, the screenplay must be pretty solid. Wade goes for chuckles rather than gut-busters, so you won't laugh loudly, but you'll laugh frequently.

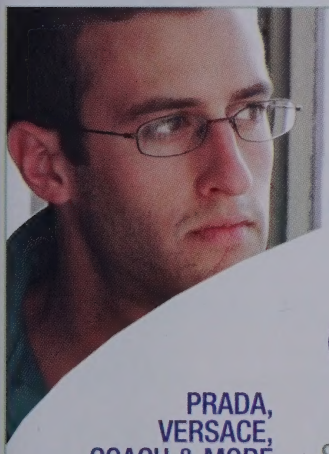
The idea of inter-orientation friendships may be old news socially, but aside from the token gay neighbor, it's still a novelty in the movies. If "Coffee Date" is cutting-edge with a dull blade, it has a pleasant aftertaste.

You may find yourself appreciating it more a few days after you see it instead of straining to remember it, like many disposable gay comedies.

"Coffee Date" opens Dec. 15 at Midtown Art Cinema, 931 Monroe Dr., 678-495-1424.



BRAY AND CRUZ



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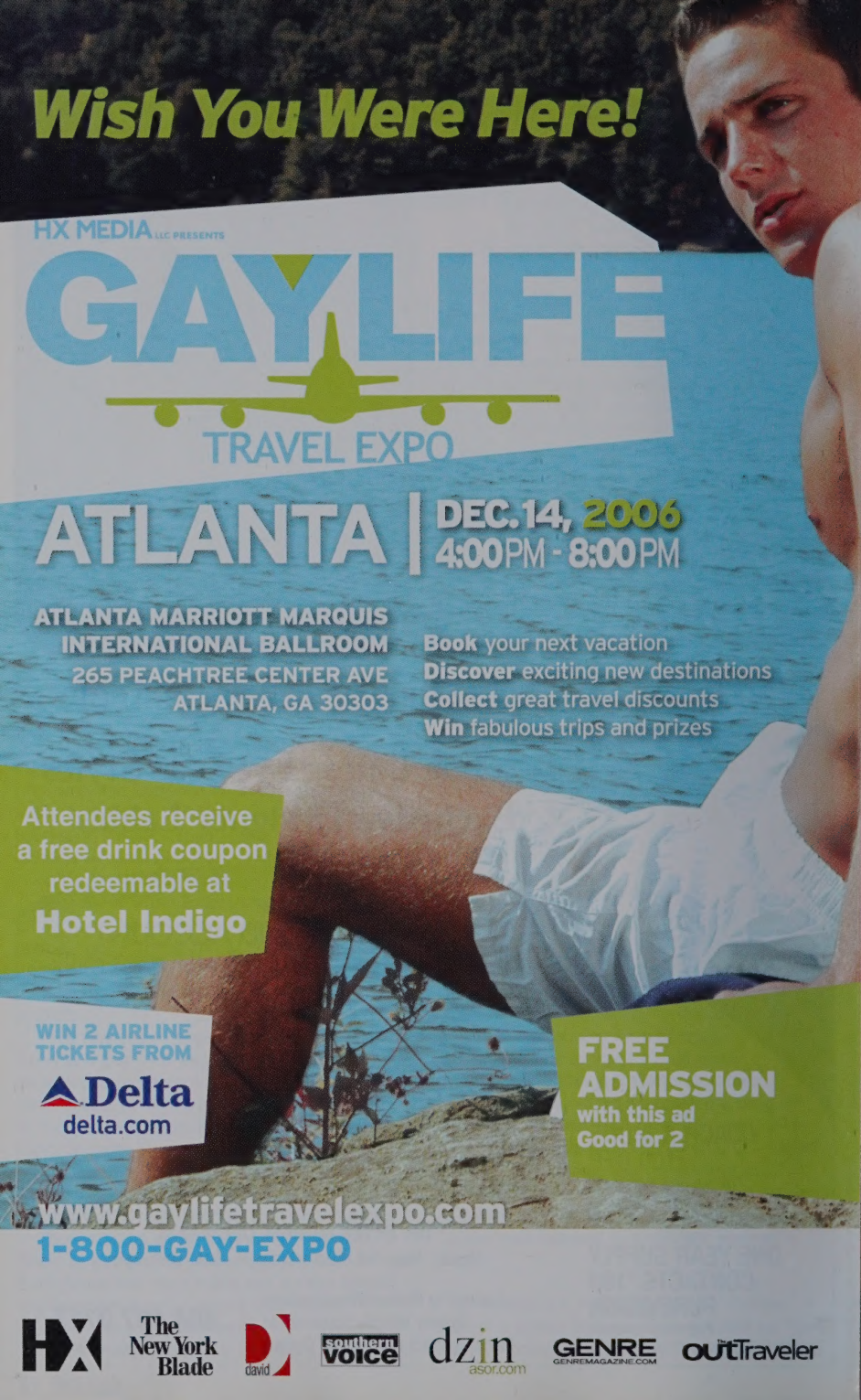
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GWEN'S ECLECTIC 'ESCAPE'

TREND-SETTING POP ICON RELEASES 'SWEET' SOPHOMORE ALBUM

BLENDING GENRES AND DEFYING preconceptions, Gwen Stefani's "The Sweet Escape" relied on an unlikely muse to aid in its creation: Maria von Trapp of "Sound of Music" fame.

"It's just a dream I always had," Stefani says, "to take 'The Sound of Music' — which is one my favorite, favorite movies of all time and stars one of my biggest inspirations, Julie Andrews — and put it on vinyl, since I've referenced it a million times for other things. There's just something about that film that's touched me over the years."

Stefani samples "The Lonely Goatherd" from the film's soundtrack for the lead single "Wind It Up." And yes, she actually yodels. The track is a tight, unlikely mixture of hip hop, Rodgers and Hammerstein, and a drum line (hearkening her smash, "Hollaback Girl").

Produced by the Neptunes, "Wind It Up" went through a metamorphosis before ending up on the album. Stefani took the original version by the Neptunes and commissioned a mash-up with "The Lonely Goatherd" for her 2005 L.A.M.B. fashion show. Against Pharrell's wishes, that version is the track that ended up on the album.

The video for "Wind It Up" turns "The Sound of Music" on its ear. It finds Stefani cavorting around stylized sets with her Harajuku Girls as von Trapp children, complete with dresses made from curtains.

THE STANDOUT TRACK ON STEFANI'S sophomore album is "Early Winter," written by the singer and Tim Rice-Oxley of Keane. The pair takes inspiration from Billy Idol's "Eyes Without a Face," Roberta Flack's "Killing Me Softly," and Cyndi Lauper's "Time After Time," with emotional, haunting and powerful results.

Two of Stefani's collaborations with Kanal are among the album's most ebullient tracks. "Fluorescent" chronicles a hot night on the dance floor and the subsequent hot time in the bedroom.

"Don't Get It Twisted" has a great opening line: "Don't get it twisted, don't get clever/ This is the most craziest shit ever." It's about Stefani missing her period and discovering she was pregnant with Kingston. An unlikely origin for a hot track, yes, but a damned good time nonetheless.

The title track is a funky combination of hip-hop and '60s doo-wop. It features Akon as the co-writer and guest rapper. The autobiographical "Orange County Girl" pays homage to Stefani's roots in No Doubt and her days growing up in the O.C.

Despite her desire to create new sounds, Stefani relies primarily on past collaborators, but the results are still fresh and exciting. Five of the tracks are penned by Stefani and Pharrell, three by Stefani and Kanal.

In addition to her collaboration with Rice-Oxley, Stefani also branched out in other directions, enlisting uber-songwriter Siedah Garrett ("Man in the Mirror" anyone?) on "Now

That You Got It." She reunites with prolific lesbian Linda Perry ("What You Waiting For") on "Wonderful Life."

PROVING SHE HAS MORE IN COMMON WITH Madonna than just blond ambition and trendsetting style, Stefani takes a page from Madge's book and releases her first live DVD along with "The Sweet Escape."

Directed by video maven Sophie Muller and recorded in her hometown of Anaheim, Calif., "Harajuku Lovers Live" documents Stefani's first solo tour and contains all the hits from "Love. Angel. Music. Baby." plus "Orange County Girl" and "Wind It Up."

In 2007, Stefani hits the road for the Sweet Escape Tour, an ambitious, 40-date spectacle across North America. All of this solo action must be depressing for fans of No Doubt, but Stefani's army of fans couldn't be happier.

"The Sweet Escape" is a spectacular album and forges new musical ground for the girl from the O. C. Let's hope the new tour is just as exciting as the first one, further cementing Stefani's place in the pop star stratosphere.

'The Sweet Escape' CD and 'Harajuku Lovers Live' DVD are available on Interscope Records. Check your local gay-owned retailer or www.gwenstefani.com

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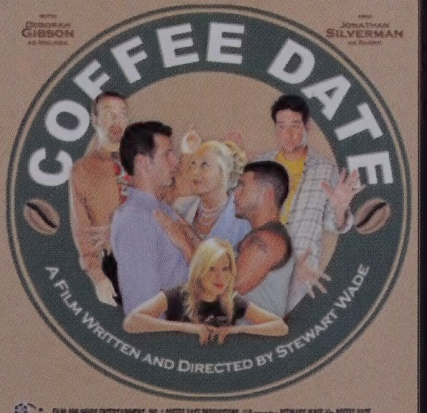

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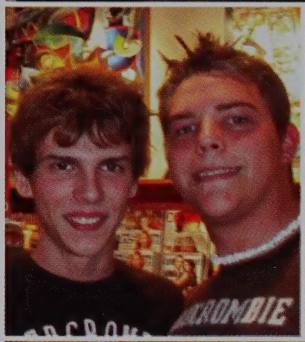

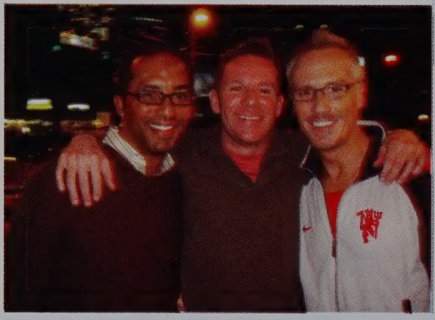

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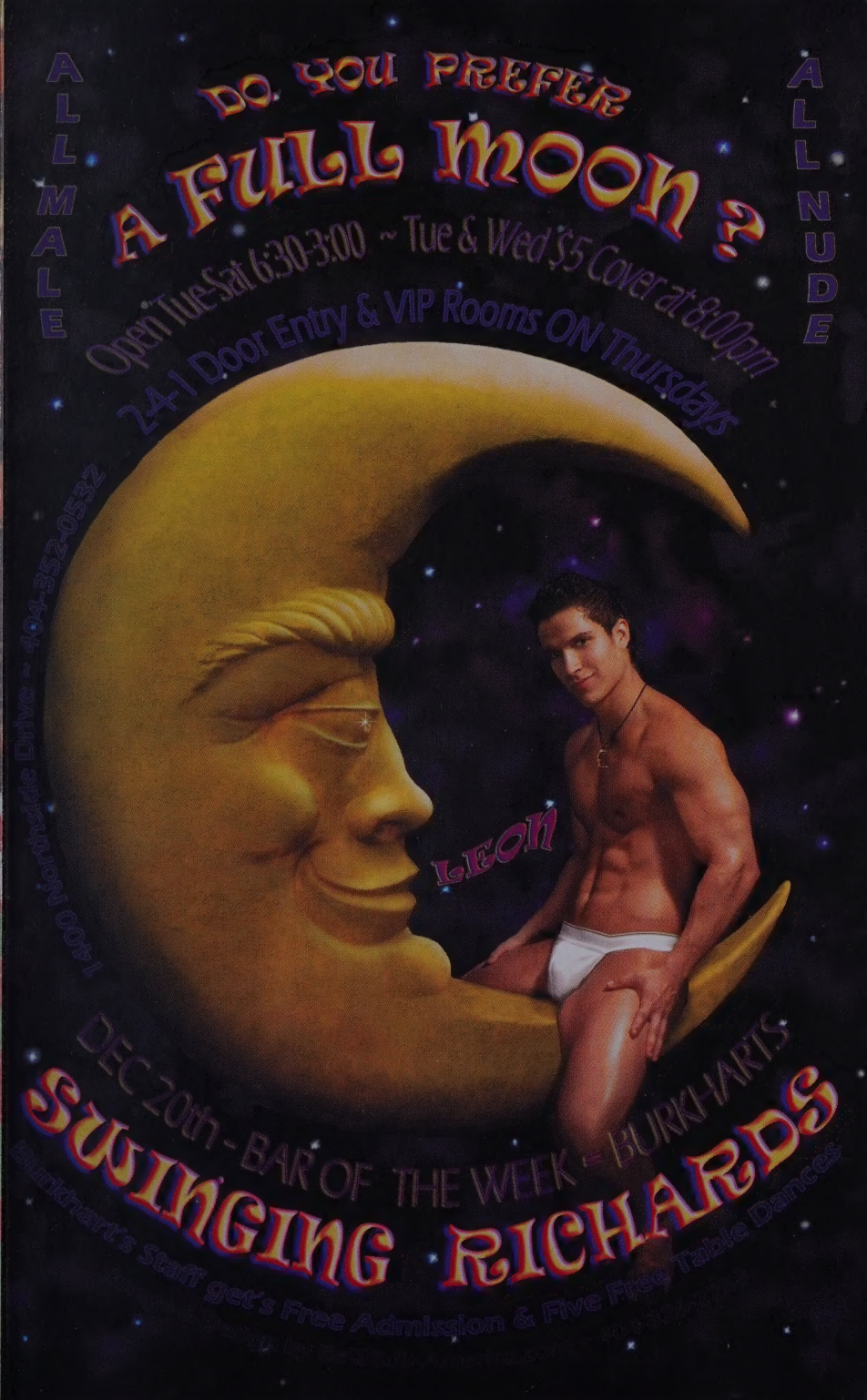
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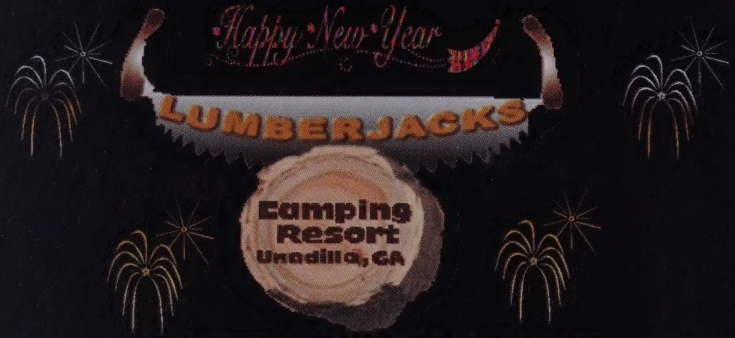

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NEED WOOD? BY WOODY MILLER

SQUINCH YOUR STARFISH

Seven tips to being sensational in the sack

HEY WOODY!

I recently came out, so I don't have a lot of sexual experience. I'm not too confident in bed, and my self-esteem collapsed after I went home with a guy who told me I was the worst lay he'd ever had!

I don't necessarily want to be the 'town pump,' but I do want fingers to be pointed at me when somebody asks who gives the best head. What can I do to get better in bed?

— EAGER BEAVER

DEAR EAGER:

We've all been there. When I first came out, I remember a guy telling me, "You were laying so still I thought, ok, either he's dead or my watch stopped."

Today, I'm happy to report that I've become so good in bed that when I'm finished the neighbors have a cigarette.

We were born with the ability to have sex, but not good sex. Like anything else, licking your partner cross-eyed is an acquired skill. If you want to go from dud to stud with a bud, then learn the seven secrets to great sex:

1. Move! Be active in bed. Don't lie there like a wilted plant waiting to be watered. Get on top, race to the bottom, fake right, go left and keep moving. No matter what you're doing, don't do it very long or very often.

2. Spend twice as much time on foreplay than sex. Why don't gay men blink during foreplay? They don't have time. So slow down. Tongues and hands can do much more than erect penises.

3. Go to the Sex Gym Every Day. It's not far. Look down—it's in your pants. Contract and release the muscles in the pelvic floor. They're the ones you use to stop yourself from peeing when a hot guy does the unthinkable in a bar and smiles at you.

Do the "Butterfly" (contract and release quickly, dozens of times), and the "Clinch and Hold" — squinch your starfish for a minute at a time. The thing is, you gotta do this daily for a month before you start seeing results. It'll be worth it, though. You'll last longer, have stronger erections and more powerful orgasms.

4. Make Your Mouth A Saliva Factory. Nothing feels better than a hot, wet tongue. Except for a big, hard... well, I digress. Here are a couple of tricks to make your mouth wet enough to wanna put things in: Put the tip of your tongue to the back of the roof of your mouth. Can you feel the saliva pooling in the bottom of your mouth.

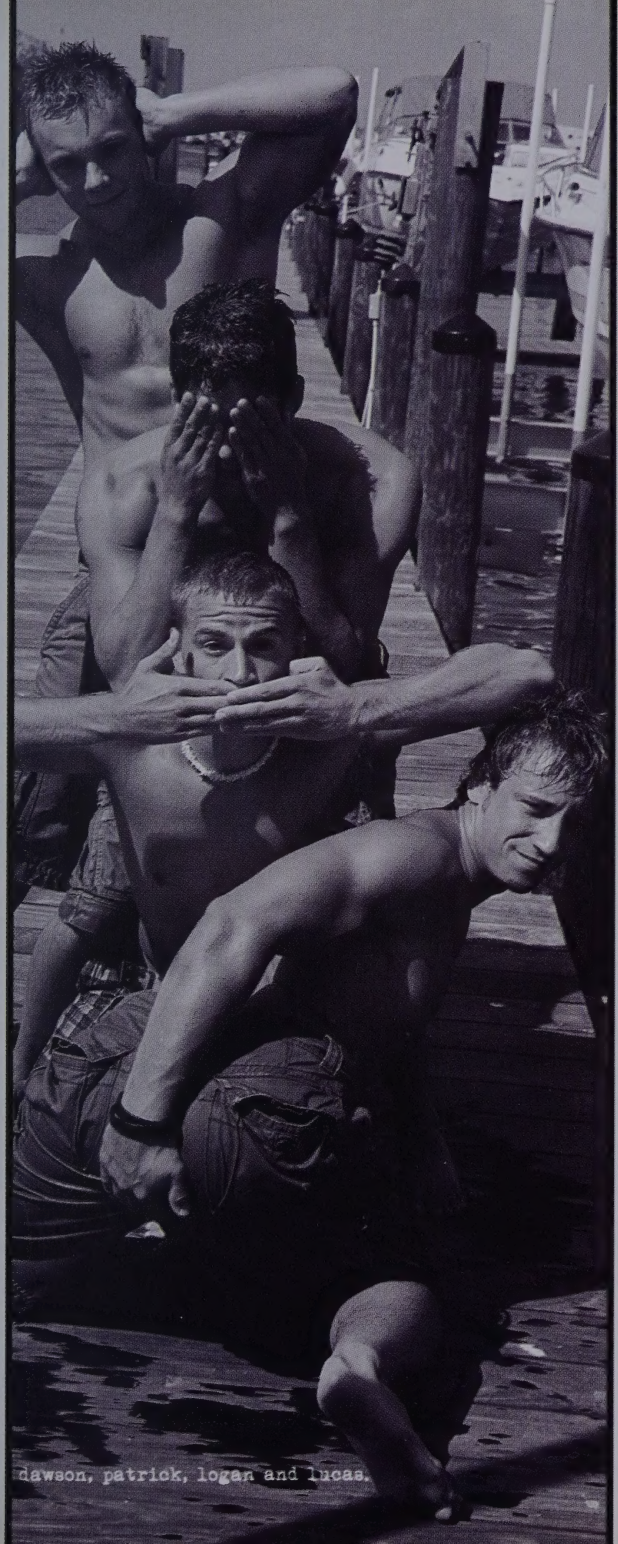
Other tricks: Think of biting into lemons. Or chew gum before sex—it'll stimulate the saliva glands. So will hard, sour candies. Sorry, Altoids don't work.

5. Make Sure Your Hands Go Up When You're Going Down. Always get in a position where your hands are free to double the mouth's pleasure. Wandering hands are the real secret to good head. Cup your fist against your lips and use your hand as an extension of your mouth. When you're going up and down, use a corkscrew motion.

6. Put it on Speaker Phone. Guys get turned on when their partner's turned on. Telling him he makes you moist isn't nearly as effective as showing him. So forget the words and go for the moans, groans and grunts. And don't forget the heavy breathing and loud slurping.

7. Expand, Explore, Experiment. Pick a role, try a position, act out a fantasy. Be adventurous. And don't believe that bullshit about trying everything once. Try it three times. Because you'll get it wrong the first time, you'll feel awkward the second time, and you might feel awesome the third time.

Woody is the author of 'Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon.' Reach him at needwood@mac.com.



dawson, patrick, logan and lucas.

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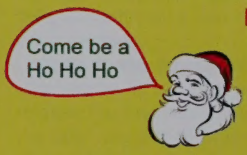
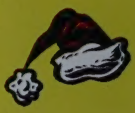
Saturday Dec. 30th - Pre New Year's Eve Social
Sunday Dec. 31st - New Year's Eve Bash





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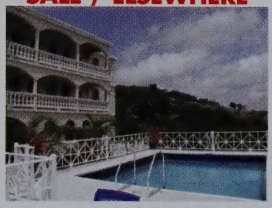

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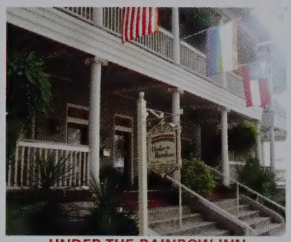

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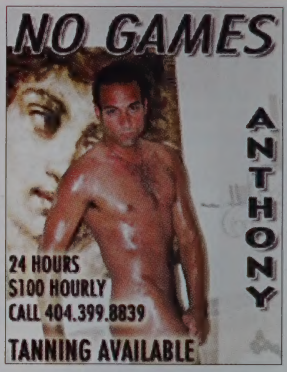

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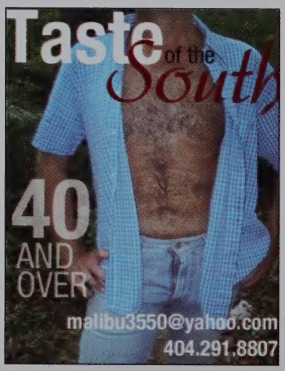

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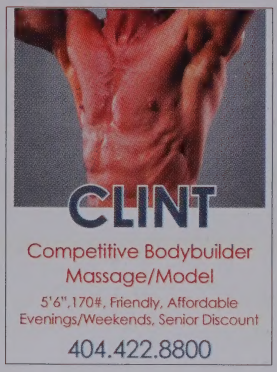

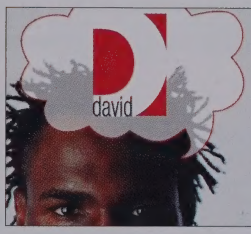

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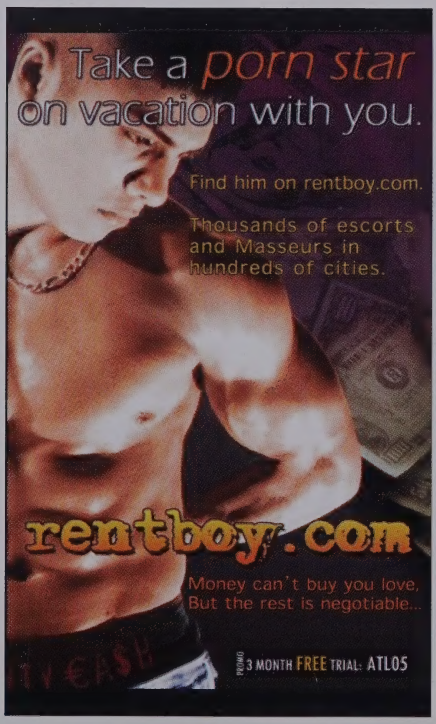
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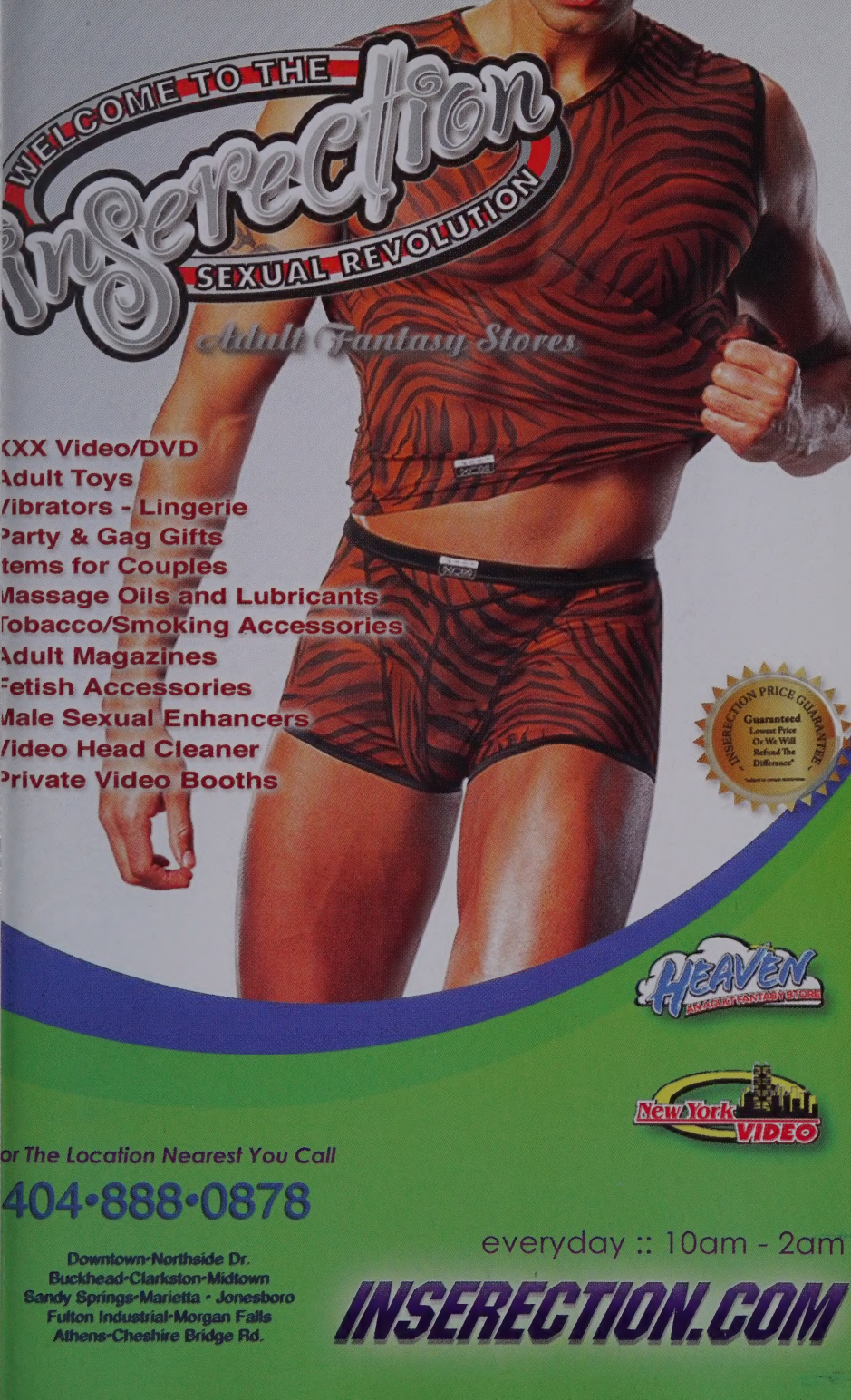
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For those who wonder why some poz people are "hostile," try this: Place an honest personal ad with "Healthy poz here... I do not bareback...," wait for 20 responses, and see if you get less than 90-percent instant rejections.

"Nothing says 'he's just not that into you' quite like a text message."

How come older guys won't talk to me unless they want to have sex with me? And when I do have sex with them, even though they say it was great, they pretend they never met me the next time they see me?

I can't believe how many "happily partnered" couples are pursuing extracurricular activities online. I think the song was wrong. It seems that "Two is the Loneliest Number."

What's up with you people who say bad things that aren't true about good people? Y'all need to get a life and quit downgrading others to make yourself look better.

How dare you have a problem with me wearing a kilt when you and your boyfriend both have wives and children.

To the guy who wonders why incredibly hot guys settle down with frumpy old men who never go out: Perhaps they're sick of shallow guys and cracked out bar bitches. Jealous much?

I hate hanging out with you and your friends because you perpetuate the fucked-up stereotype that all gay men are prissy little fags. Maybe after you get a personality that's worth a damn, we can be friends.

Oh, why can't we bring back the worship of all those hot Greek gods and goddesses?

If you're over 30, don't wear necklaces from the young men's collection. And unless you have a body Michelangelo would sculpt, keep your shirt on. If you want to play dress-up and pretend you're young and hot, do it at home.

I really don't like it when someone sets up a date and then cancels at the last minute without a good explanation. It's just rude and it pisses me off.

To you HIV-negative guys who instantly reject anyone you know is HIV-positive: If you were logically consistent, you'd require all of your dates to take an instant HIV test.

I understand a lot of us have been wounded by "the church." But must we damn all "churchgoers"? There are many churches whose "goers" accept, affirm and love GLBTs in response to the command "Love thy neighbor as yourself."

Now that Lance Bass is officially out and we know that his boyfriend is Reichen Lehmkuhl, there is also no doubt about who is the bottom in that relationship.

Having just moved to a "transitional neighborhood," I am amazed at the number of delinquent kids running around without adult supervision. I think any law banning gays from adopting kids should also ban non-working, irresponsible welfare dependent adults from procreating.

You say that having a simple conversation with me is like taking a deposition. You might come to a different conclusion if having a simple conversation with you weren't like being deposed.

I overheard you saying that now that you've turned 20, no one will want to date you. If that's the case, stop hanging out with pedophiles. I'm old enough to be your father, and I get cruised all the time.

In September 2001, someone offered me a bump of tina and I said yes. Since then, my life fell apart twice, a friend of mine murdered someone and now is dying in prison with AIDS. I have many friends who are now HIV positive and homeless because of PNP. It really is "life or meth." There is no in between.

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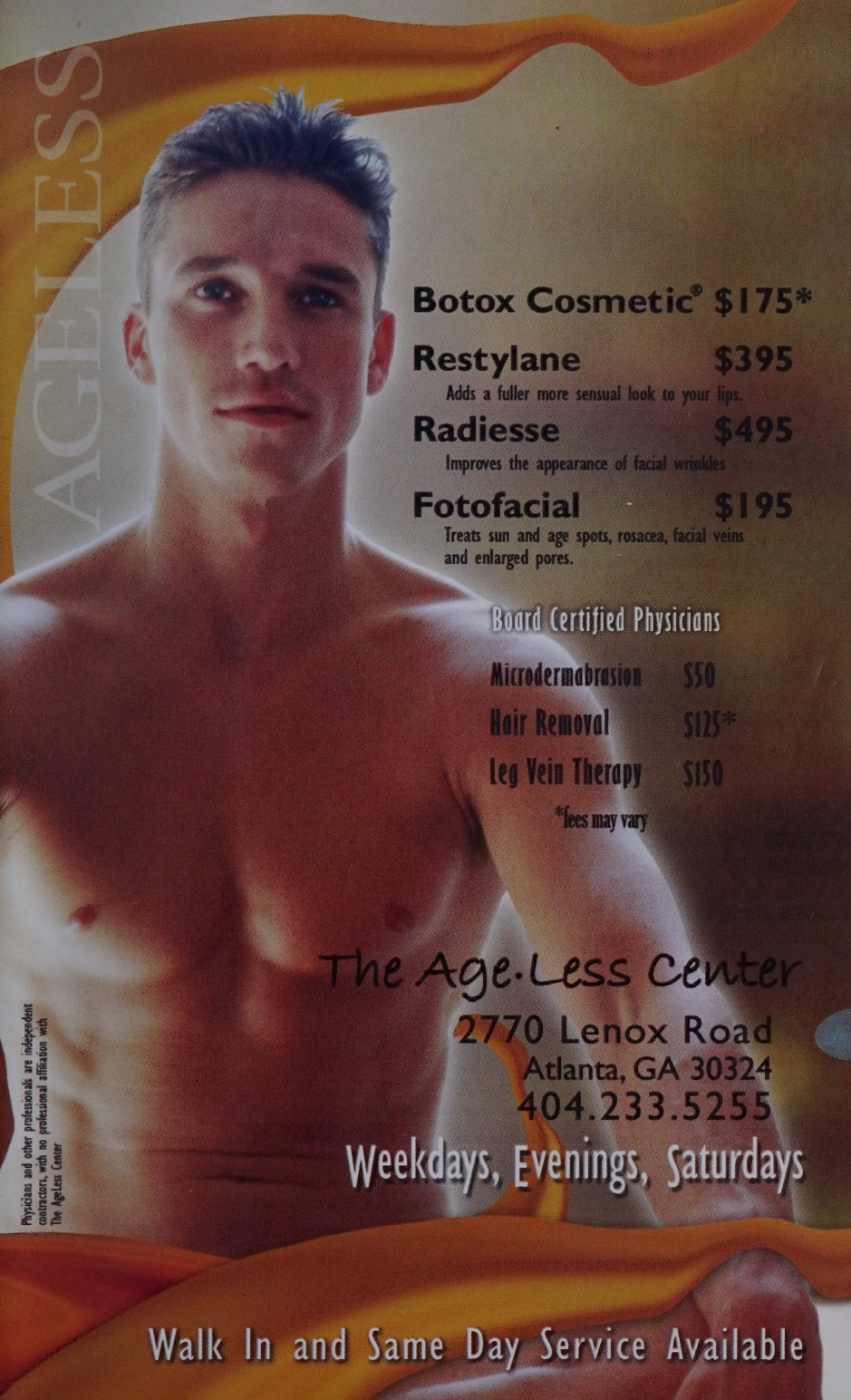
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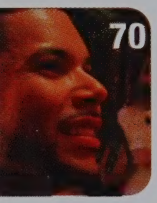

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102 BITCH SESSION

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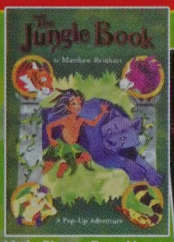

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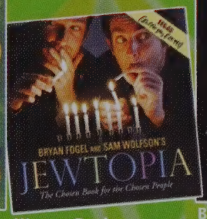

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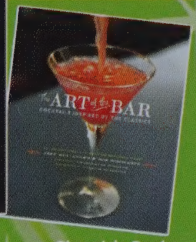

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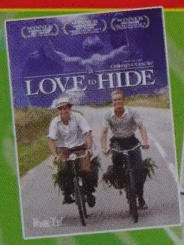

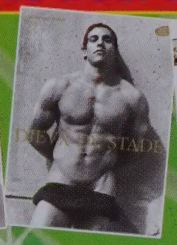

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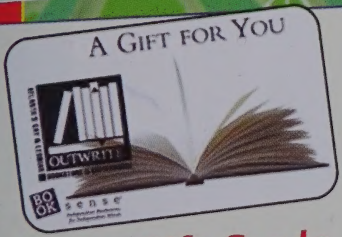

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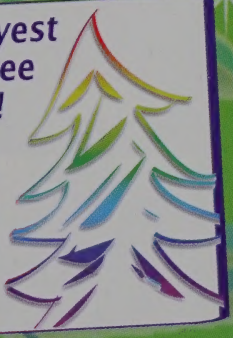

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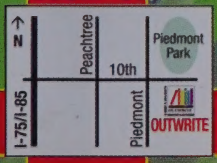

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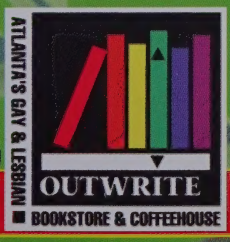

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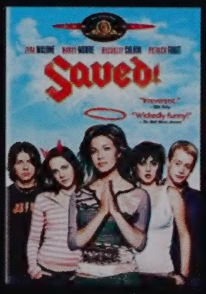

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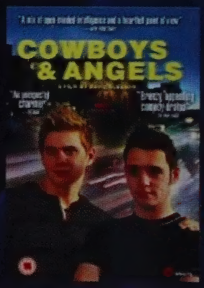

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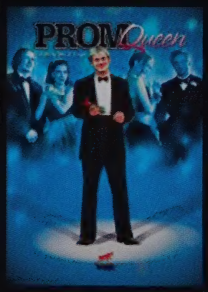

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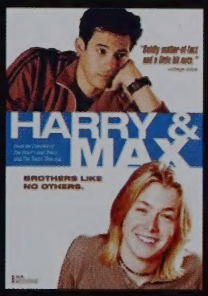

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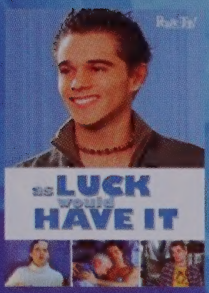

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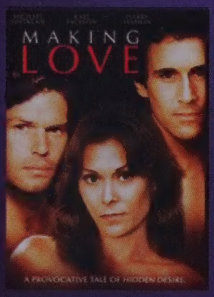

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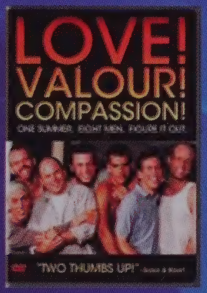

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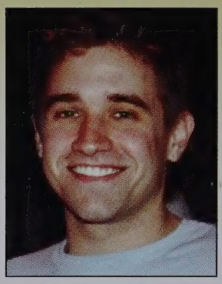

BARELY THERE

BY ROB BECK

Babes in DADDYLAND

Hooking up the **generation gap**

MY FRIENDS SOMETIMES LIKE TO ATTACK without warning, like pit bulls. Granted, there are specific trigger words that I am well aware will cause them to snap from sweet to snarky, but I'm usually too slow to remember not to use them.

Take, for example, the following conversation, in which I was cheerfully trying to assure my friend George (no, not Topher's George) that he is, in fact, not fat.

"I need to get back into the gym," he sighed into the phone.

"Hush," I said. "You're a skinny bitch; you don't need to worry."

"But I've been eating like crazy!" cried George.

"Whatever," I said. "It's, like, in our DNA to eat too much turkey and stuffing and fatty fatty gravy this time of year. You know, because of the cold. It's evolution."

George, who was a biology minor, wasn't buying my rationalization. "It's not evolution. It's gluttony. And it's making me fat."

"Because you're getting ready for winter. Like bears before they hibernate."

"Right," said George, taking a tone that immediately told me I'd walked right into it. "I'm sure you know all about the bears."

I'VE LEARNED THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING that, no matter how many years pass and things change, your friends never allow you to live down. Maybe you're the guy who got drunk and let the drag queen undress you in front of a whole bar.

You could be the one who slept his way across Florida one particularly slutty spring break and came home with a well-earned case of crabs. Or perhaps you cried when Buffy died — both times.

Or, maybe you're like me and you're the only one among your friends who hooked up with an Older Man once (or twice). And your friends never let you forget it.

Not that I would want to forget. Older Man was hot, and I still stand by my choice. He was about 16 years older than me (basically, you could fit a whole person who can drive between us), a former college football player, and he looked like he had just stepped off the field and into the locker room of my coach/player fantasies.

He wasn't actually a bear; that's just the blanket term my friends use to get on my nerves. For roughly the past year, I have been unable to utter that word, however innocently, without one or more of my friends jumping at the opportunity to tease me.

Which is why I should have known better, even in casual conversation, and especially with George. He's typically into skinny, blonde, surfer-boy types, and he has long been unable to understand how I could lust after someone who didn't have the common courtesy to die at the age of 30.

ALL OF WHICH MADE MY NEXT CONVERSATION with George all the more delicious.

"So, how're things going with Daddy John?" I asked George a couple days later. He was seeing Daddy John for about a month, and I never asked his age; I figured the "Daddy" was just George's way of saying that John was over 25.

George hesitated. "It's ... good."

"What do you mean ... 'good'?"

"I found out how old he is," George said.

"How'd you manage that?"

"We were talking about football, and he made a comment that he'd been around nearly as long as the Super Bowl," he continued.

George took a breath as I did a rough estimate, and then laughed at him.

"And you found yourself wishing you'd paid more attention in elementary school the day they taught Roman numerals?" I asked.

"No," George sighed. "I was wishing I'd been out sick."

As tempting as it is to revel in the fantastic irony of a guy like George seriously dating an older man, I think I'll leave him be. Try as he might, George can't find a reason beyond the fact that Daddy John is 39 to dump him, so he's sticking it out to see where it goes.

I'd say that milestone of maturity is more important than a few laughs for the sake of revenge. Besides, I've got enough dirt on George to entertain myself well into our own daddy years.

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MAYBE IT'S JUST ME

BY TOPHER PAYNE

THE IMAGINARY ADULT

Believing I can make it in a **make-believe world**

AS AN ENTHUSIASTIC PATRON OF AMERICAN theater, I was honored to attend a recent performance by an amateur company's interpretation of a Japanese folktale. The venue was Morningside Elementary School, and the performers were all under the age of 10.

In a previous chapter of my existence, I ran the day care center at a posh health club in Buckhead. To my charges at the center, I took on a new identity: "Mister Topher." I stayed in touch with a few of the families after I left, and remain Mister Topher to those children.

I was at the elementary school in support of one of those kids, and it was such a thrill to see him perform. I remember when he struggled to form complete sentences. After the production, I walked his sister back to her classroom to meet her teacher.

I was stunned when I encountered a pretty woman around my age. Then I looked around at the parents, and realized a lot of them appeared to be in my peer group as well.

This observation remained an uncomfortable pebble in my brain for a few days, then really came to a head this morning. It's my birthday. I started to do some mental math and realized I am now the same age my father was when I was born.

This was jarring. On this day in 1979, my 27-year-old father had a mortgage, a wife, and two children. On this same day in 2006, his 27-year-old son has a house he rents, several incomplete manuscripts, and two roommates.

THE CLOSEST THING I HAVE TO CONSISTENT responsibility is my Sunday night pizza date with George to watch our shows on ABC. My father was making contributions to college funds at this point. I make contributions to bartenders and my personal trainer.

I spend most my time immersed in a culture dominated by gay men, and it's easy to lose track of the timeline being followed by many of our heterosexual counterparts. We're not running off and getting married right out of school or having kids in our mid-20s.

Our denial of (or freedom from) the milestones that define the majority results in a sort of blissful extended adolescence. It takes a lot longer for us to reach a point where we have to be home for the kids, and even then it's only after an extended process usually involving exorbitant legal fees.

But what bothers me isn't just that I don't have a spouse or offspring. Moreover, it's the nagging concern that Dad was so much more grown-up at this point than I am. I could never handle the level of responsibility he juggled at my age.

What was his secret? What do I need to do to catch up and become a more authentic adult?

I CALLED HIM AND SHARED ALL OF THIS. THEN I had to wait until he stopped laughing.

"You think I had any idea what I was doing when you were born?" he said. "I was terrified. I couldn't believe anybody would let me have two kids, like I knew what to do with them."

"So you didn't feel like an adult?"

"Son, I'll tell you a secret — for your birthday. You never feel like an adult. You just realize there's all these people who are so much younger than you, and they keep looking at you like you're supposed to know something. So you make stuff up. That's all it is, making stuff up to make the younger people feel better. Now you're in on the secret, and that's the closest thing to real adulthood there is."

All those years, I thought my father knew everything. And it turns out he was just as uncertain as I am now. I was so relieved.

Later in life, if my nephew or one of my former day-care kids has a formidable question, Mister Topher can participate in the time-honored tradition of selling them on the best bullshit he can formulate. And if I'm very lucky, time and experience will provide me with wisdom I don't even know is there. Just like my Dad.

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Gaining PERSPECTIVE

Experience is why 40 is the new fabulous

I CONFESSED AWHILE BACK ABOUT MY STRUGGLE with the "Age Cage," how being 40 and pushing 41 in the gay world meant joking jabs from my friends with a pretty harsh personal and social reality behind them.

I talked about gay men's particular embrace of society's youth obsession, and that I was falling victim to it against my better judgment. It bothered me that I was old enough to be some fully grown adult's daddy — and not in the fun way.

I vowed to bust out of the Age Cage and to appreciate my life experience. More than 20 of you wrote that you liked the column, that you were having the same thoughts, or not to worry, that the insecurity passes. Now I'm 41 and feeling much better, thank you.

NOTHING MAKES ME SURER THAT I'M OVER THE psychological hump — and not over the hill — than this week's issue of *David*. I am so proud to host the men on the following pages and present their views to those of you who need some reassurance, and to younger readers who can look to a bright, sexy future.

The germ of the idea for Fierce Over 40 came when we called for nominations to feature in our annual Atlanta Guys issue in October.

We were happy with the results, but I admit, I was disappointed that most of our nominees were younger than 30, and that none were older than 35.

It just doesn't jibe with our mission to represent such a narrow view of the GayTL's diversity. Sure, we know that *David* readers skew younger than our sister publication, *SoVo*, but I regularly hear from readers aged 16-60.

We busted ass in the eleventh hour to lure some "older" participants, with no bites. Then my worst fear came to pass: along with compliments, a few e-mails came in from readers as disappointed as I was that we didn't represent a broader age range.

The friendly, reasoned letters got a response: "I agree with you 100 percent. We are already planning a special issue that makes it up to you. Would you help me find guys over 40 willing to participate?"

And as usual, *David* readers came through.

CHECK OUT THE HOT PICTURES, BUT ALSO BE sure to read what the Fierce Over 40 men have to say as they discuss coming out and growing up.

Besides a broad range of experiences, careers, activities and opinions, also note a few common threads in this "gay generation": calling confidence the most attractive trait a man can have, being true to and taking care of themselves, thanking the generation that came before them, and the most frequent topic to arise — HIV/AIDS.

Adapting our behavior, helping each other and keeping fun on the priority list are also ongoing themes here that come directly from many of these guys' lives being touched by HIV when it was our most unwelcome common denominator.

Most gay guys 40 and older don't just know someone who died from the virus, but they count many of the lost millions among their closest friends, lovers and family members. For some of the funny, smart, resilient men profiled this week, it's personal.

All these guys are literal or figurative survivors, and they all take getting older in stride. Some are thriving in spite of disease, and several are donating their time and energies to help not just AIDS causes, but contribute in other ways that increase what they offer the world and ensure they leave a lasting mark on it.

I, for one, appreciate the perspective.

THANK YOU TO READERS WHO HELPED MAKE Fierce Over 40 happen, and to the sexy men who took their time to pose for our camera and share their viewpoints. Special thanks go to photographer Tim Wilkerson* for his keen eye, amazing organizational skills and of course, the beautiful pictures. Turn the page to see what I mean.

— Mike Fleming, editor

*This week's cover and the Fierce Over 40 photos on pages 16-51 by Tim Wilkerson, TimWilkersonATL@aol.com.

TIM MULLINS, 45

Occupation: Realtor

Relationship Status: I have met the man of my dreams.

Background: Grew up in a small town in Illinois

What is your motto? All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own

What is the most attractive trait a man can have? Self-confidence in himself and empathy for others.

How have you changed the most over the years? I stopped worrying about how others perceive me. I remain an idealistic person, but now I am more cautious in my approach in life.

What's the most powerful lesson you've learned? You can't depend on others to give you happiness. You have it in yourself and it will come.

What defines your "gay generation"? Great transition. When we were coming out, it was terrifying. We were indoctrinated into the world of AIDS as it developed. We had to adjust to an entirely new way of expressing ourselves sexually and taking care of our own. We are survivors.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? Do not rush things. Take your time exploring your sexuality; you have many years of discovery. With age comes the confidence and experience that will make you a well-rounded human being. And Botox, don't forget the Botox.

What else would you like to say to gay Atlanta? Remember that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. And for the most part, the beholder likes to see a fit, well rounded, secure person of any age.

JEFF PARAMORE, 42

Occupation: Pharmacuetical sales

Extracurricular Activities: Working out, travel, spending time in the North Georgia Mountains, Project Open Hand Volunteer

Relationship Status: Single

Background: BSBA from Auburn University; From small-town Alabama

What is the most interesting thing about you? The people I know

What is your motto? Everything in moderation, and treat everyone the same.

What surprises most people about you? That I do what I say I am going to do

What do you dream of that you haven't attained yet? Owning a jet

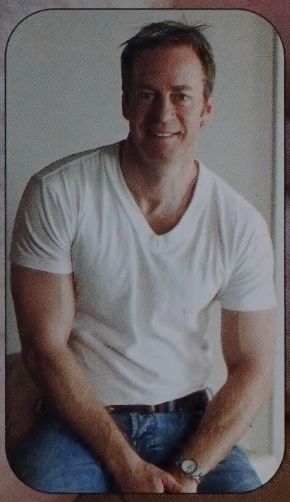
What do you think keeps other guys attracted to you once they get to know you? That I am real and consistent

What's the longest relationship you've had, and how did it change you? 6 years — it allowed me to grow up emotionally.

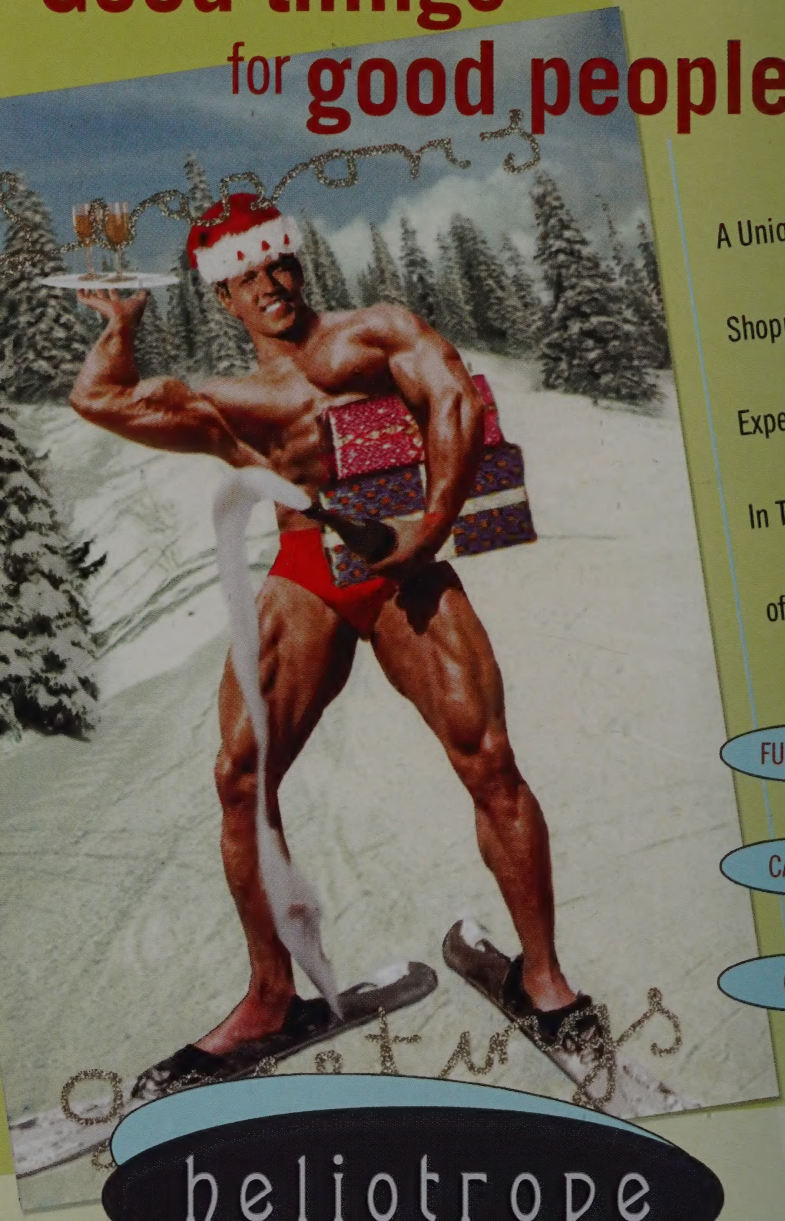
What's the most powerful lesson you've learned ? Everyone walks their own path, and you must honor that.

What defines our "gay generation" for you? Freedom to be ourselves. We are benefiting from the efforts of everyone who fought for that freedom.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? Be yourself, love yourself and laugh at yourself, at any age.



Good things for good people



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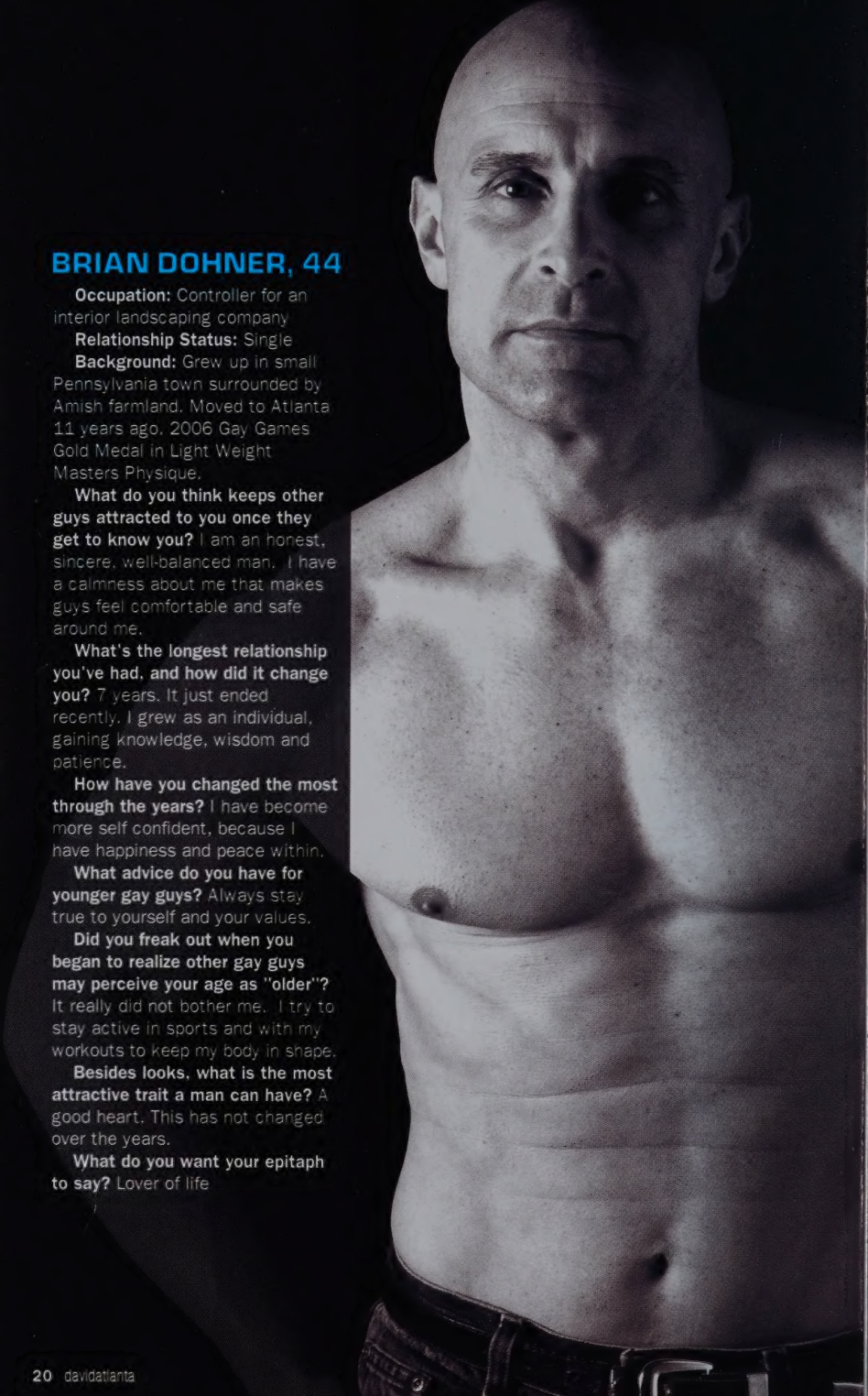

BRIAN DOHNER, 44

Occupation: Controller for an interior landscaping company

Relationship Status: Single

Background: Grew up in small Pennsylvania town surrounded by Amish farmland. Moved to Atlanta 11 years ago. 2006 Gay Games Gold Medal in Light Weight Masters Physique.

What do you think keeps other guys attracted to you once they get to know you? I am an honest, sincere, well-balanced man. I have a calmness about me that makes guys feel comfortable and safe around me.

What's the longest relationship you've had, and how did it change you? 7 years. It just ended recently. I grew as an individual, gaining knowledge, wisdom and patience.

How have you changed the most through the years? I have become more self confident, because I have happiness and peace within.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? Always stay true to yourself and your values.

Did you freak out when you began to realize other gay guys may perceive your age as "older"? It really did not bother me. I try to stay active in sports and with my workouts to keep my body in shape.

Besides looks, what is the most attractive trait a man can have? A good heart. This has not changed over the years.

What do you want your epitaph to say? Lover of life

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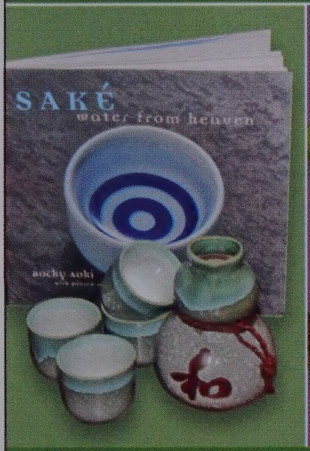

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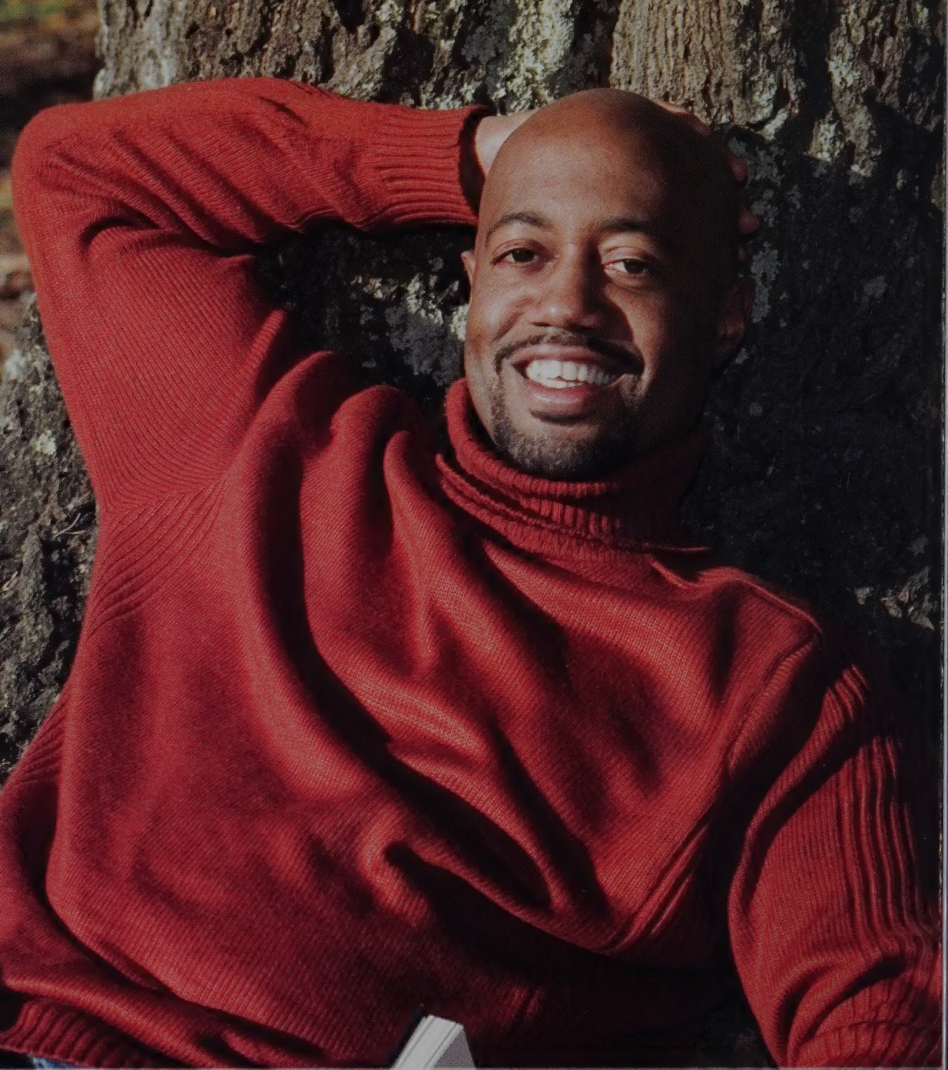


CRAIG WASHINGTON, 46

Occupation: Training Coordinator at Positive Impact

Relationship Status: Single

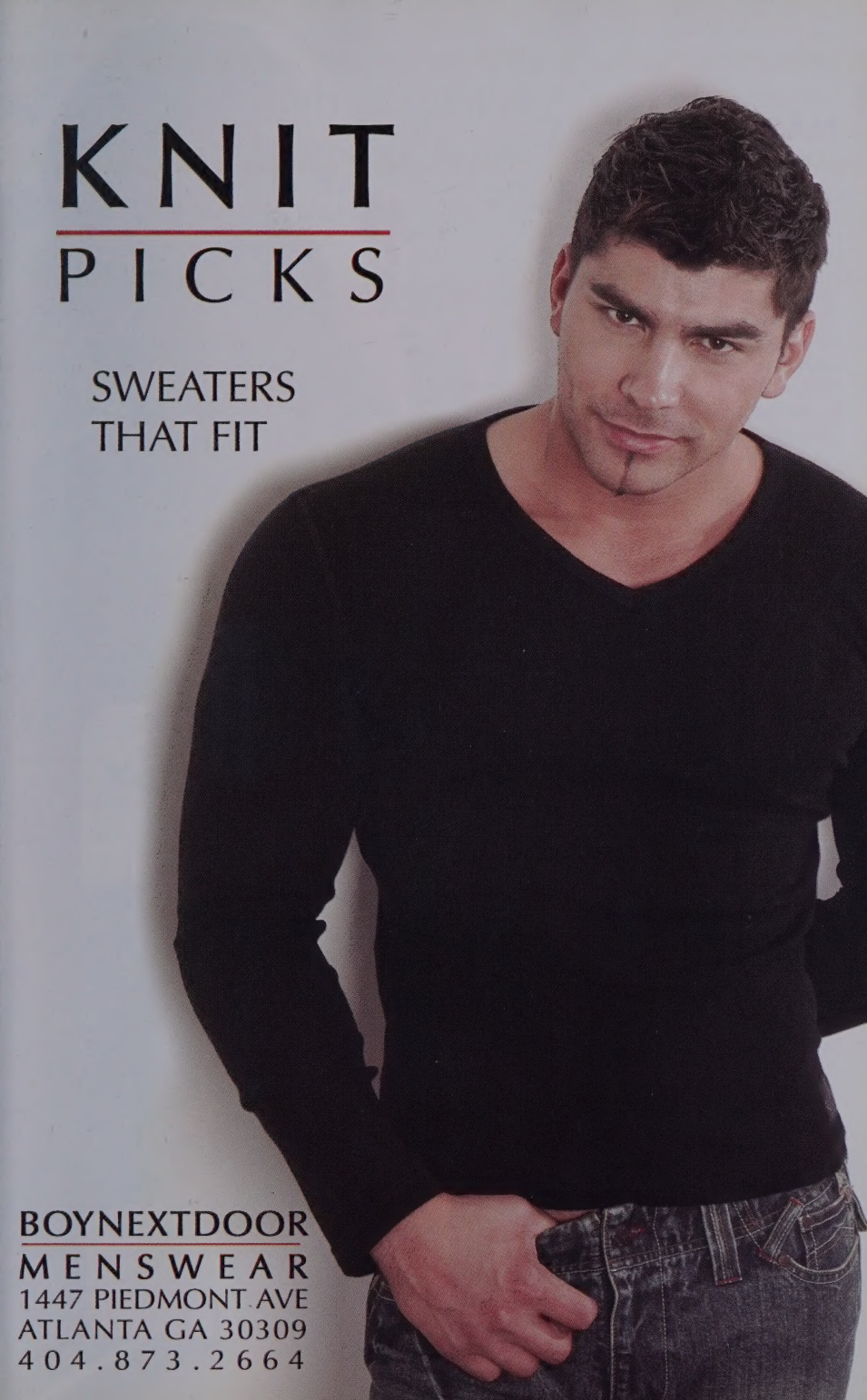
Background: I was born and raised in Queens, NYC. I've been living in Atlanta for 14 years, arriving here on the "midnight train to Georgia" (because of a romantic relationship). Been living with HIV for 21 years. The greatest gift I received from Atlanta is the constellation of friends who have become my local family.

Community Insterests: Social Justice. Helping to create a world where we are free to be fully human and recognize ourselves in each other. All my life I have been a writer, and my site is www.craigwerks.com. I have an essay included in the new anthology "Not In My Family: AIDS in the African American Community," and I am one of the organizers for the Bayard Rustin Breakfast on MLK Weekend.

What is the most interesting thing about you? That I do not believe in quitting!

What is your motto? "Your crown is already bought and paid for. All you must do is put it on your head." - James Baldwin.

What do you want your epitaph to say? He enjoyed his life fully and did not let his fear stop him from living and loving as if he had nothing to lose.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MARK HUMBLE, 41

Occupation: Corporate trainer

Background: BA in Business Administration, Cincinnati. Lived in the South for the past 20 years. Close to my family.

Extracurricular Activities: Friends, working out, HIV-related causes

Relationship Status: Single

What surprises most people about you? That I'm a nice guy, I won't beat them up, and I can cook.

How big a part does "gay" play in your life? It does not define me entirely as a person, but it does have a significant role in shaping who I am.

Besides looks, what is the most attractive trait a man can have? How has your answer changed over the years? At 20, it was all about the look. At 30, whatever my friends told me was an attractive trait. At 35, a job. At 40, someone like-minded.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? Don't get caught up in others' lives. Live your own, and be true to yourself. Stop using up energy on what might be and enjoy what is now.

What's the most powerful lesson you've learned? There are no mistakes in life, only lessons in moving forward. Instead of looking back on challenging times as "bad," look at them as learning experiences that have helped create the life you have now.

What defines your "gay generation"? Our generation dealt with a tremendous amount of change and in some cases adversity. I think many of us worked hard to appear "normal." HIV/AIDS was a huge part of that. Younger guys today ... are coming out earlier and experiencing gay life in a way that many of us did not experience until our late 20s.

What do you want your epitaph to say? That was a blast! What's next?

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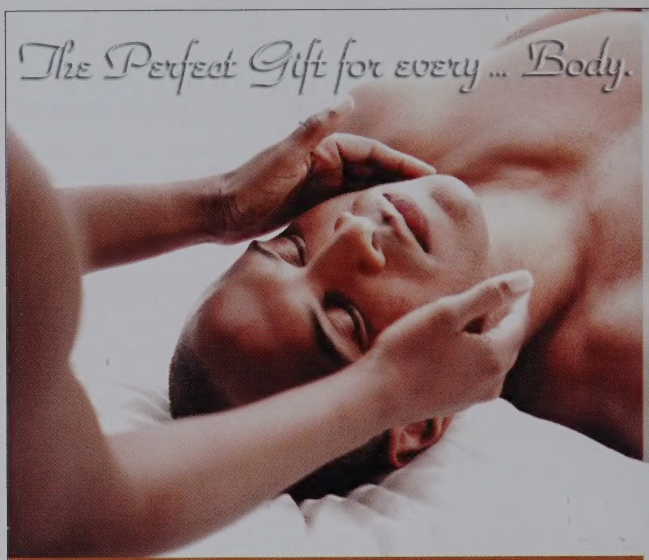

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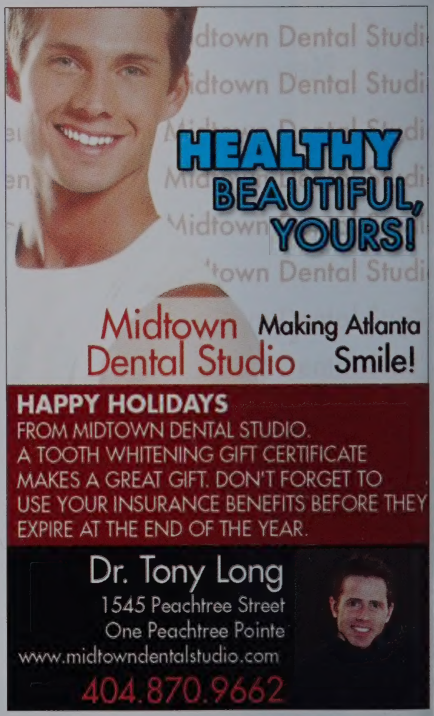
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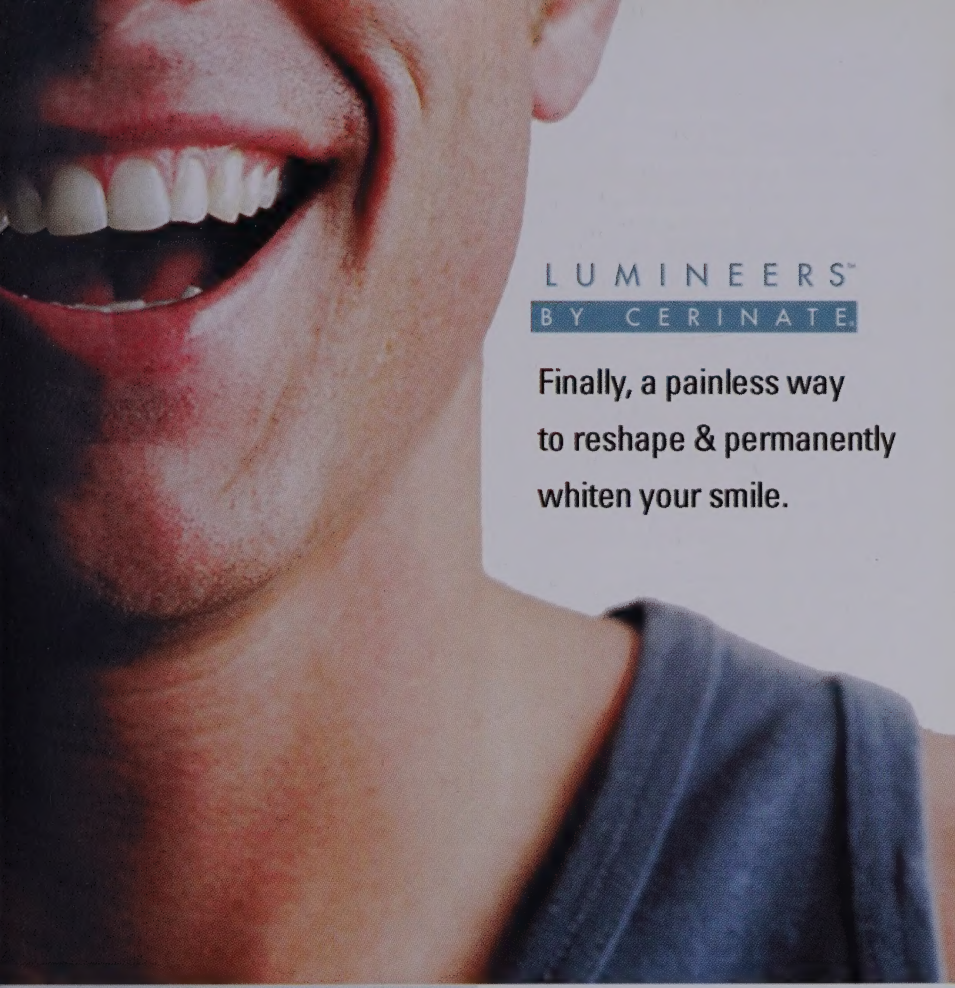

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ROB HANISKO, 43

Occupation: Software Engineer

Relationship Status: Single

Background: Born in Passaic, N.J., graduated Columbia University with a B.A. in computer science

What do you do for fun? Travel. Theater. Movies. Cooking. Working out. Art collecting.

What is your motto? "Make the most of what you have. And Photoshop the rest."

What do you dream of that you haven't attained yet? Having my picture appear in one of the most widely read gay publications in the southeast. Oh, wait. Check!

How big a part does "gay" play in your life? What? Do you mean like in inches?

What's the most powerful lesson you've learned?

Don't be surprised if you wake up one day and find that everything you've ever known, felt and believed, is simply wrong. But no need to worry. The human spirit has a tremendous capacity to heal, to learn and to grow.

Did you freak out when you began to realize other gay guys may perceive your age as "older"? Nah. It was easy. You can renew your Gay Card by mail these days. All I had to do was send in my check and change one checkbox from "Twink" to "Daddy".

TODD SHELL, 41

Occupation: Programmer for The Boeing Company

Relationship Status: Married, together one and a half years

Background: Born in Indiana, Purdue graduate, spent 18 years in California, moved to Atlanta this year

What surprises most people about you? I'm relatively quiet and shy until I get to know someone.

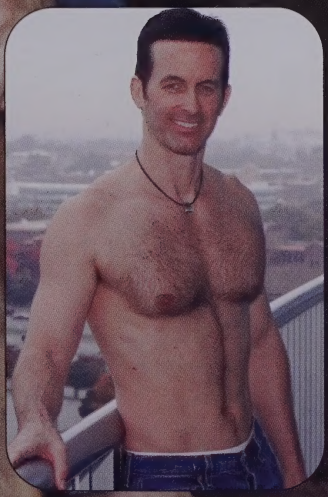
How big a part does "gay" play in your life? Gay doesn't define me, but it's a big part of me. I spent too many years hiding my true self, and now I've had 9 years to really be who I am, with every year getting better and better.

What's the longest relationship you've had? I was married to a woman for 8 years.

What's the most powerful lesson you've learned? Tomorrow is not promised, so live life as much as you can today.

Did you freak out when you began to realize other gay guys may perceive your age as "older"? I've always thought older guys were sexy.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? Don't take things for granted. A lot of things we enjoy today as gay men are due to the struggles of earlier generations.



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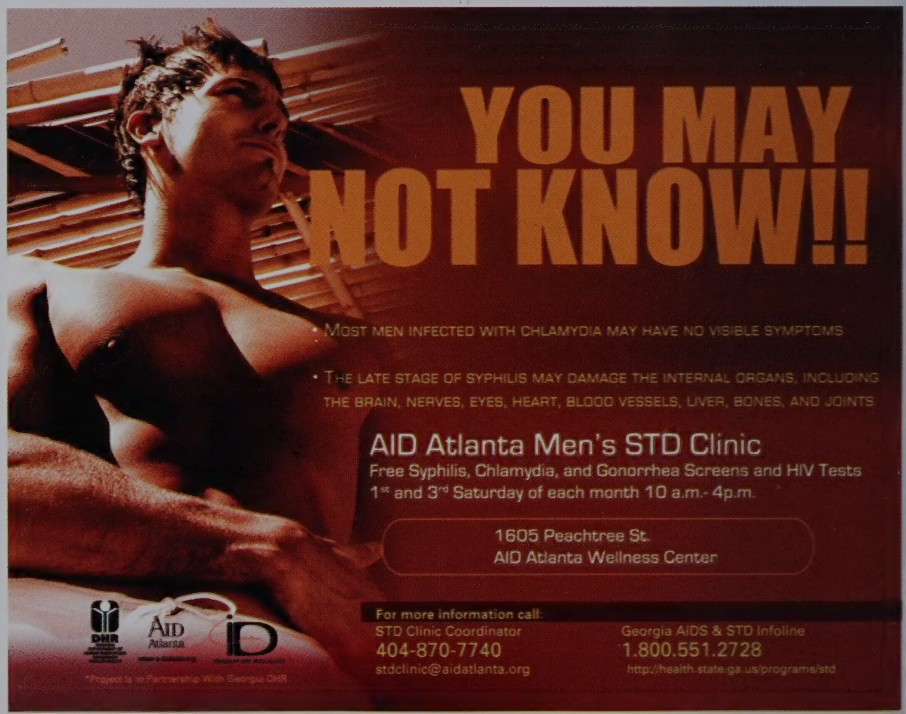
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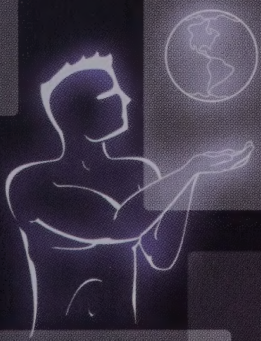

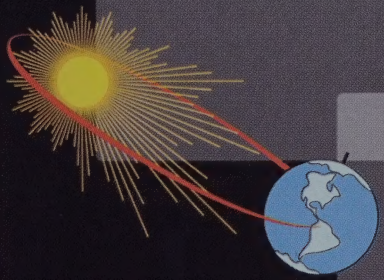

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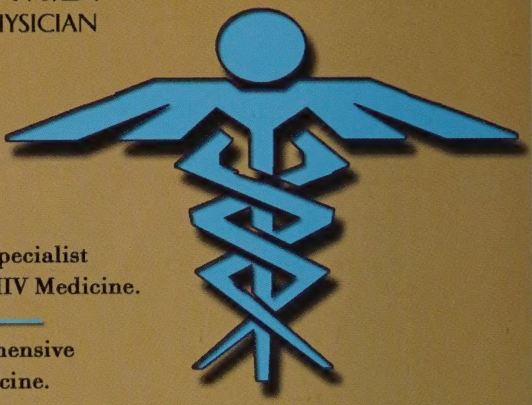

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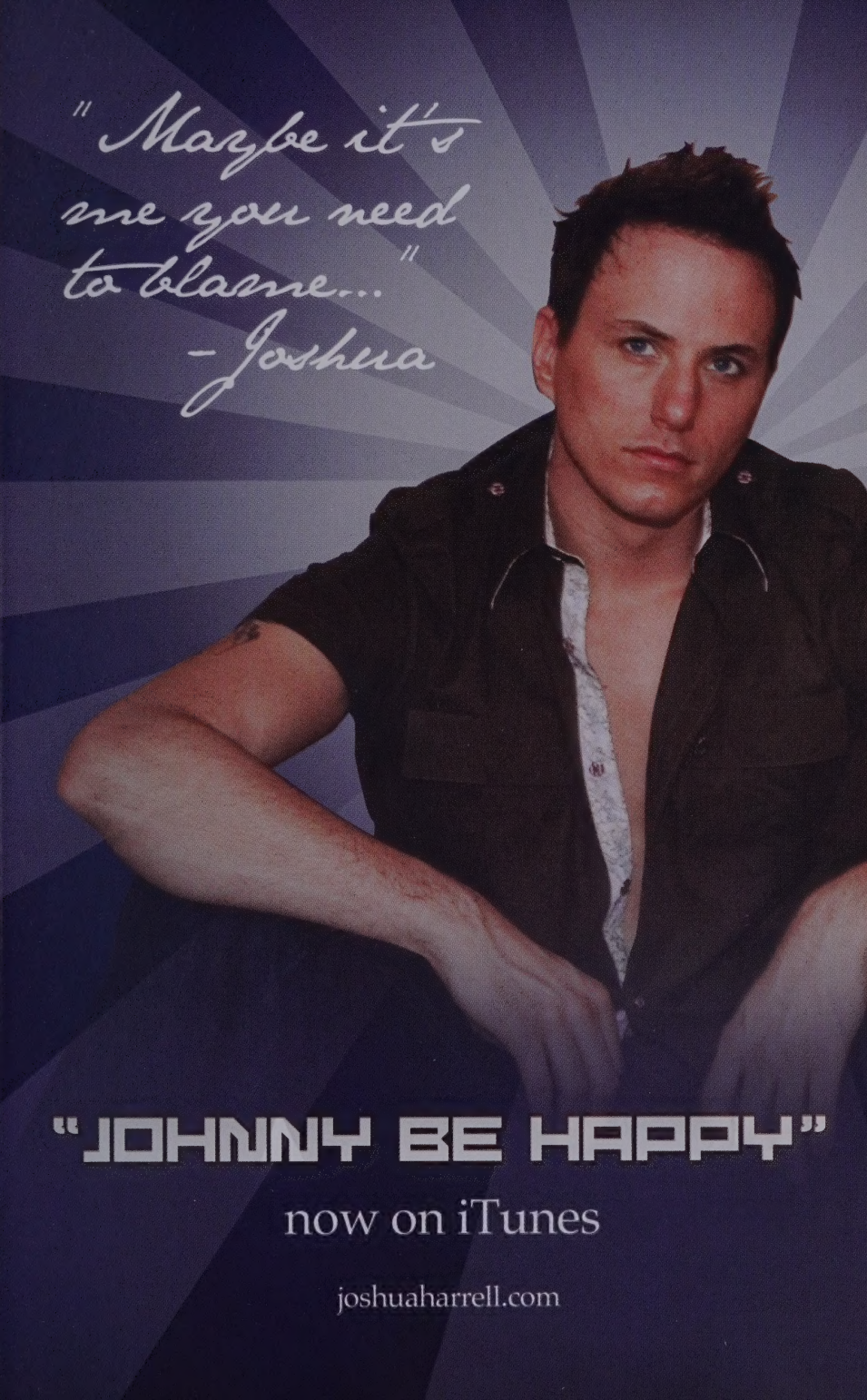
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JERRY EDWARDS, 46

Occupation: Fitness Factory gym owner

Background: Born and raised in Danville, IL, graduated from the University of Illinois, and lived in Chicago six years before moving to Atlanta in 1990.

Relationship Status: 18 years. I met my partner in 1988 at Hotlanta Raft Race and dated long distance two years before moving to Atlanta.

What is your motto? Life can be filled with negative energy and it can be filled with positive energy—it's what you decide it is going to be.

What surprises most people about you? Probably that I'm not as dumb as I might appear to be.

What's your biggest priority in life? To create my own path and enjoy the people in my life. What's a job with a lot of money, if you are not enjoying it?

What keeps guys attracted to you once they get to know you? Being non-judgmental, real and willing to listen. Also, having fun and having a sense of humor. People come back to places they have fun.

What's the best part about you passing the 40 mark? Showing that I'm still living and learning. Using the word "No" more often, and not caring whether I'm pleasing people.

What do you want your epitaph to say? He really cared, especially about people.

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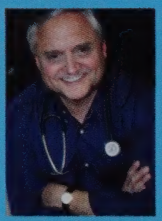

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- Hospital Privileges: Piedmont Hospital
- Certifications: HIV Specialists, Certified by the American Academy of HIV Medicine™

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TONY DESARIO, 44

Occupation: Entertainer/entrepreneur

Relationship Status: Partnered for three and a half years

Background: In Atlanta for 25 years. I left in the '80s to work in Las Vegas lounges for three years. Named Mr. Continental 2006. My partner and I plan to open a boutique in Marietta before the end of the year.

What is your motto? I have two. "Become the one you dream you can be," and Ghandi's quote, "Become the change you wish to see in the world."

What surprises most people about you? That I love football and Country music

How have you changed over years? In my 20s, things were so spastic. In my 30s, things were so awkward. My 40s have been the best by far. I still feel 25, and I have taken good care of myself.

What's the most powerful lesson you've learned? Watch who you trust, choose your friends wisely, and above all, giving is so much more rewarding than receiving.

What defines your "gay generation"? Compassion, for what we have been through with the AIDS epidemic. To watch so many step up to the plate during those real hard times in the late '80s and early '90s.

What's the best part about you passing the 40 mark? It just all seems to make more sense. I don't stress about things as much anymore.

What else would you like to say to gay Atlanta? Stop being so negative and mean to each other. Try and extend the love, courtesy and understanding you say you want others to extend to you. Remember that diversity is what we are striving for.

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JD JR MUSCULAR THERAPY

malik m.l. williams, 42

Occupation: Photographer, performer, HIV prevention counselor

Relationship Status: Committed relationship with my partner, Troy, for more than seven years.

Extracurricular Activities: I am a voracious reader. I also spend much of my time advocating for the health and well being of black gay men in Atlanta.

Background: Originally from Detroit, Mich. Living in Atlanta for 15 years. I come from a very supportive family. When I finally came out to my parents, my father said, "Well it's about time you told us. I've known since you were three."

What is the most interesting thing about you? That I changed careers after 40? That I used to be a professional Sign Language Interpreter? That I fell asleep while taking my SATs and still qualified me for Mensa? That I'm a closet Harry Potter fan?

What do you dream of that you haven't attained yet? Helping to establish the Tony Daniels Community Center in Atlanta. Tony was a visionary, a writer, an activist and a coalition-builder. He was also one of my best friends and a constant inspiration.

How big a part does "gay" play in your life? I've been fortunate enough to live as an out black gay man for many years, and at times to have everything in my life revolve around that: jobs, relationships, volunteer and community involvement. Being gay is as much a part of me as being black or being male.

What is the most attractive trait in a man? Intelligence. Someone to can have a conversation with, who can challenge me and who can think for himself.

Did you freak out when you began to realize other gay guys may perceive your age as "older"? Hey, I earned the gray hairs and the smile lines and every scar on my body. I'm proud of the fact that I made it to be this old. I take it as a badge of honor that I've lived this long, in spite of the statistical suggestions to the contrary.

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RON POWELL, 48

Occupation: Director of procurement

Relationship Status: Connected for 4.5 years

Background: Grew up in Manassas, Va., graduated from Furman University, and came to Atlanta just after Sherman left.

What is your motto? "Never say Never"

What keeps guys attracted to you? I'm very loyal, and genuinely a very nice guy.

What's the longest relationship you've had? I was married for 16 years prior to coming out. I have a good friend and two wonderful kids because of it.

What do you dream of that you haven't attained yet? Living in a foreign country for a year or two.

What's your biggest priority in life? My partner, family and friends

How have you changed over the years? Since I came out, my friends and family would say I'm more fun, confident, and outgoing.

What's the most powerful lesson you've learned? Understanding how lucky I am after seeing the poverty in Third World countries. Not taking the wealth and freedoms we have for granted.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? Everything in moderation. It will make you appreciate it more as you get older. If you're scared of getting older, get over it. Growing older beats the alternative.

What do you want your epitaph to say? He gave more to this world than he took away.

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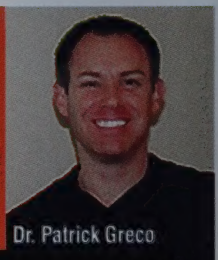

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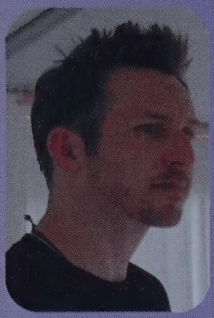

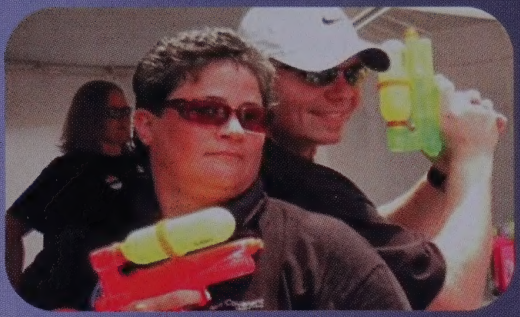

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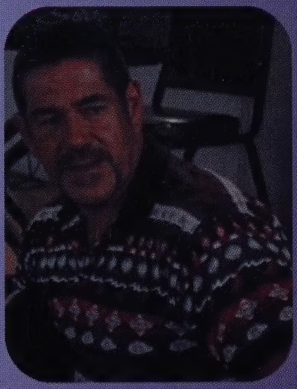

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RON ROSA, 42

Occupation: Advocacy for Hispanic/Latinos living with HIV/AIDS

Background: Hometown is San Sebastian, Puerto Rico. One of eight siblings. BA in Psychology with a minor in Education from the University of Puerto Rico. My immediate family is my loving partner (of 10 years) Steve Balfour, and our two little terrors, Fabi, a 10-year old cocker spaniel, and Rover, a 2-year old beagle mix. I like to call them my three boys.

Occupation: Positive Impact

Relationship Status: Currently in a 10-year relationship, the one that I hope that will be the one for what I have left to live. "I love you, siempre, papi."

What is the most interesting thing about you? My life. Facing death in two occasions, and the impact it has had in my way of living

What surprises most people about you? My survival skills

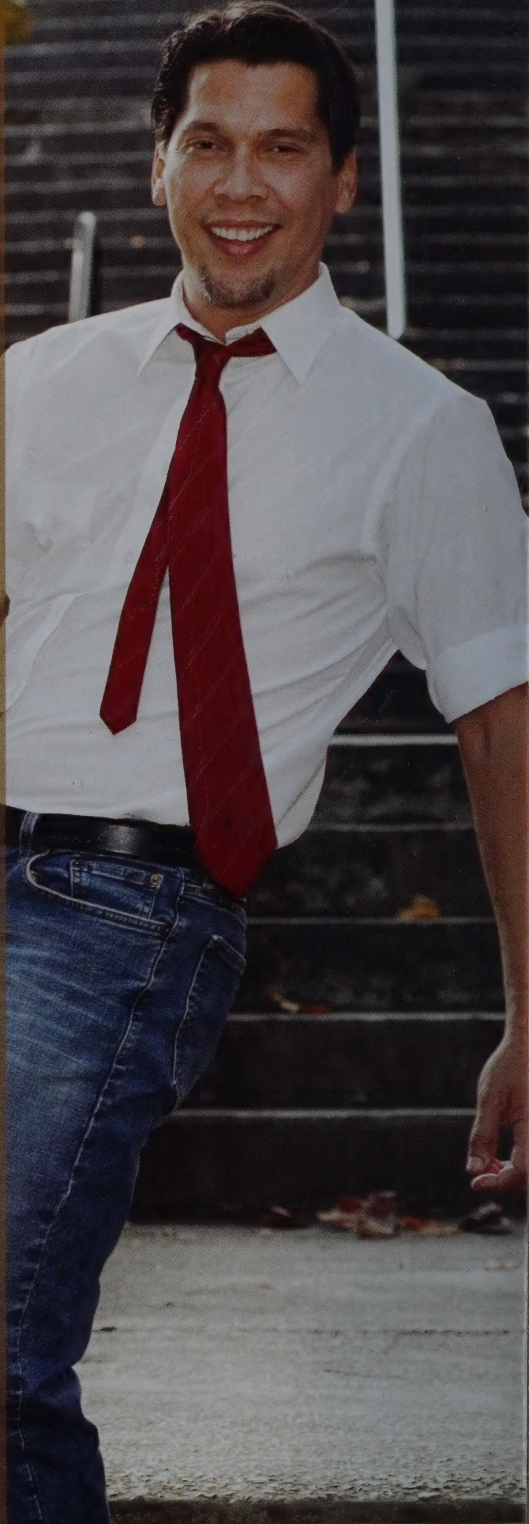
How big a part does "gay" play in your life? I love the fact that I am gay ... I am well aware that I need to thank those that made themselves heard in the past in order for me to have the life I am able to live today. Gay is part of my life, but I am a person first.

What is the most attractive trait a man can have? Has your answer to that question changed as you got older? In the 20s sense of style, in the 30s sensible, in the 40s self-confidence.

What's your biggest priority in life? The present moment

Did you freak out when you began to realize other gay guys may perceive your age as "older"? I believe that gay men in particular are like a good wine; we get better with age. Not the physical aspect, but the essence of self, who we become as a result of our experiences.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys, specifically those who may fear growing older? Do not take your youth for granted. Try to make a positive change in someone's life.



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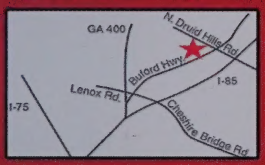

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FRANK SANTORE, 42

Occupation: Certified Massage Therapist, residential mortgage loan consultant

Extracurricular Activities: Big Brothers-Big Sisters

Background: BS in Hotel-Restaurant Management from University of Houston.

Hometown: Lakewood, NJ. Twin brother to my sister Katie, youngest of five children in an unconditionally loving family.

Relationship Status: Hate to be cryptic but, I'm a one-man kind of guy; waiting for someone to "believe" in again. I'll leave it at that.

What is your motto? The golden rule, "do unto others..." Anyone who knows me understands these are not just words, but more, my foundation.

What surprises most people about you? How a big guy like me can be such gentle person

How big a part does "gay" play in your life? An early influence told me, "Embrace being gay, don't let it define you."

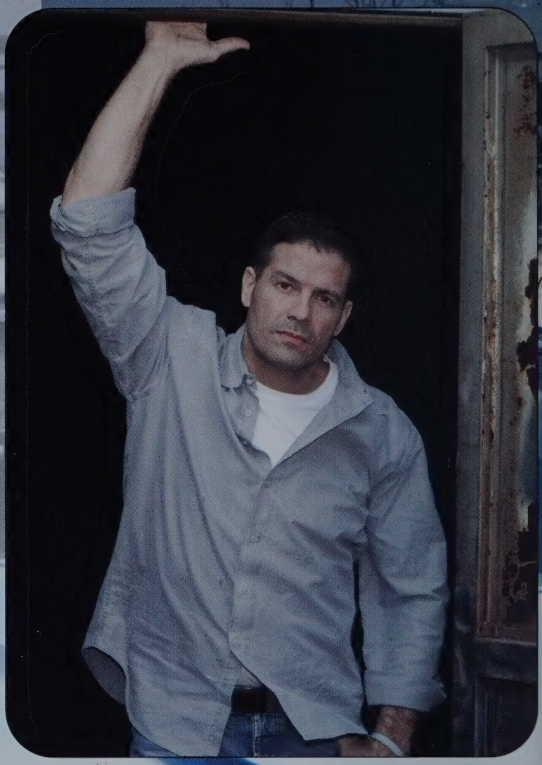
What's your biggest priority? To take care of me. It's taken a lifetime to learn.

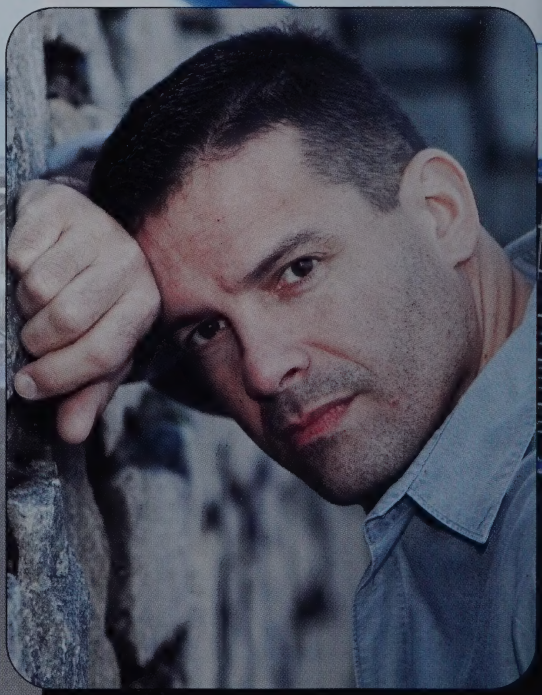
What's the longest relationship you've had, and how did it change you? Ten years. It made me never settle for less. Despite the hardships, I can only feel the good times and the love.

What advice do you have for younger gay guys? My Dad use to tell me, "Stop trying to learn everything the hard way. Learn by example; it doesn't hurt as much!" Wish I would have listened.

What defines our "gay generation" for you? "Survival." I have several friends that didn't. I lost them, either through HIV/AIDS, suicide or drugs. Somehow we did. Keep the lessons close, guys. Please, the sacrifice was paid in the blood of our brothers!

What do you want your epitaph to say? A kind and gentle friend. His heart loved many well.





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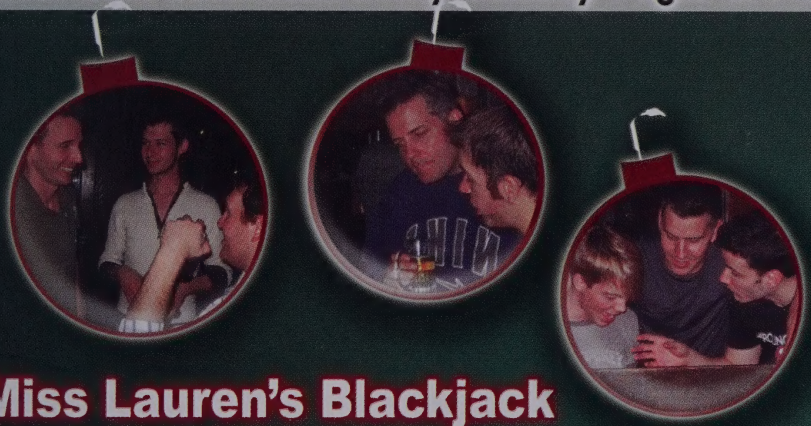

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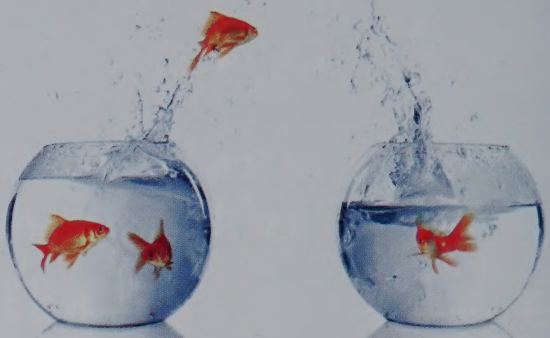

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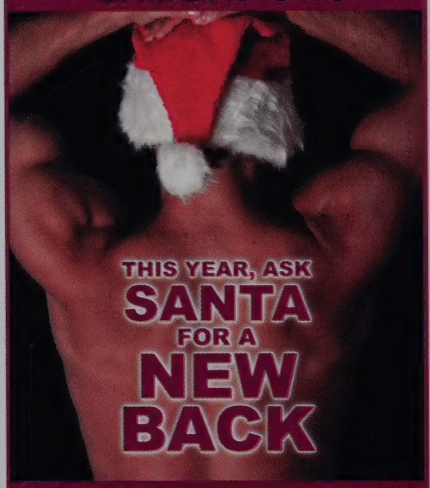

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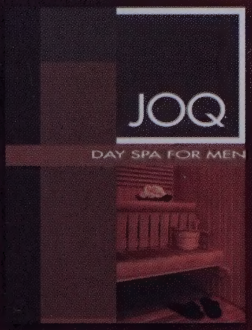

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Universal Gear celebrates the holidays with a special donation package where $5 of each sweater sold goes to Until There's a Cure, benefiting HIV/AIDS research and awareness. *Through Sunday, Dec. 24 at Universal Gear, 935 Peachtree St. 404-872-5700, www.universalgear.com*

LATE NIGHT BREAKDOWN

Ovah! Productions does it again, this week bringing DJ superstar **Tracy Young** to the main event, with local DJ **Jason Edwards** at an afterparty for those who just can't quit. *Saturday, Dec. 16, Young, 10 p.m. at Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Road. 404-844-8800, www.jungleclub.net. Edwards, 2:30 a.m. at Spice, 793 Juniper St. 404-875-4242, www.ovahproductions.com*

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Local film gay company Gypsy Lar screens their latest work **'The Books of John,'** a movie shot in familiar settings like Red Chair and Piedmont Park about a man who discovers his deceased partner's diaries. *Saturday, Dec. 16 at Red Chair, 550-C Amsterdam Ave. 404-870-0532, www.redchairatlanta.com*

GET THE FIRE GOING

One of our favorite out-of-towners, **DJ Joe Gauthreaux**, mans the turntables to heat things up during the chilly December weekend. *Saturday, Dec. 16 at WETbar, 960 Spring St. 404-745-9494, www.wetbaratlanta.com*

12.14 TRAVEL EXPO: HX Media presents the Gay Life Travel Expo featuring vendors to help fulfill your every gay travel wish. *4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at The Marriott Marquis, 265 Peachtree Center Ave. www.gaylifetravelexpo.com*

12.15 HOLIDAY CHEER: The First Metropolitan Community Church presents its 'Canticle of Christmas' holiday musical with a fundraising silent auction. *Friday, Dec. 15, Saturday Dec. 16 and Monday Dec. 18, 8 p.m. at the First MCC, 1379 Tullie Road. 404-325-4143, www.firstmcc.org*

The **Congregation Bet Haverim** Chorus celebrates the release of their debut CD on the first night of Hanukkah. *6:30 p.m. at Central Congregational United Church of Christ, 2676 Clairmont Road. www.congregationbethaverim.org*

12.17 STREISAND MARATHON: PBA30 airs 'Yentl,' at 2 p.m., 'Great Performances: My Name is Barbra,' at 4:30 p.m. and 'Color Me Barbra' at 5 p.m. *Comcast channel 11, www.wabe.org*

12.15 II DIVO: Can't get enough of the world's most popular opera act? PBS rebroadcasts their "Broadway" series featuring II Divo for three consecutive weeks. *8 p.m. on PBA30, Comcast Channel 11. www.wpba.org*

BRUNCH GIVING: Gay-owned **Radial** restaurant donates 20 percent of all checks to Positive Impact each Saturday in December. *Through Dec. 31 at 1530 Dekalb Ave. 404-659-6594, www.radial.us*

NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

THU 12.14

AMSTERDAM. All-day Smirnoff martini specials.
BJ ROOSTERS. Drive-in Comedy & Pizza with Scotty
BLAKE'S. Crazy Sexy Cool with Shawnna Brooks, Genre, Regina Ryan and weekly guests. 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Dance music with Dave Stoddard.
CLUB 708. Male/female review, dance party, 18+, 10 p.m.
EAGLE. Underwear Night with DJ Randy
FELIX'S. Karaoke with Johnny P. & Brett, 10 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Tini Thursdays, martini specials
HALO. 'Boys Night Out' resident DJ Brandon Sutton.
HERETIC. Rapture with DJ Rick Walsh 10 p.m., no cover.
HOEDOWNS. Free kickin' line dance lesson, 8 p.m..
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. "Bad Boyz, Bad Girlz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Rotating weekly theme nights.
MISS Q'S. AID Atlanta hosts POOL discussion the first three Thursdays of every month at 7:30 p.m.
MODEL T. Karaoke with Johnny P.
OSCARS. Country Thursdays Cowboys 'N Margaritas.
RED CHAIR. Soulvation with DJ Quasi Mandisco
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2 for 1 at door & VIP rooms
TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. College Night
WOOFS. Daily Food Specials

FRI 12.15

AMSTERDAM. DJ Van Cronkhite weekly residency, dance floor opens at 9 p.m.
BJ ROOSTERS. BJ Boi Dancers with Hotrod and Scotty
BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba and Jeffery, 7:30 p.m., DJ Rob Reum afterwards.
BURKHART'S. Mary Edith Pitts' Friday Show, 11:30.
CHAPARRAL. Latin Night with DJ Carlos, 10 p.m. - 4 a.m.
CLUB 708. Blackout Fridays, DJ JFK, male and female review, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
EAGLE. Free draft beer if in code with DJ Coqui.
FELIX'S. 'Divas @ Felix's,' 11 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Frisky Friday's-Music and Friends
HERETIC. DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m.
JUNGLE. DV8 Goth Night, 10:30 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Nicole Paige Brooks and Girlzz of LeBuzz talent competition, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Boys' Room" with Stewart, 9 p.m.
MODEL T. Divas of Delusion.
OPUS 1. Black Out Party, 10 p.m.
OSCARS. Afternoon showtunes. "Martinis, Men & Music Videos," 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Hip Hop Night with DJ Liz & DJ Gee
STAGE DOOR. Karaoke, 9 p.m. Open 5 p.m.-4 a.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. "2-4-1 T-Shirt Review."
WETbar. Charlie Brown's Cabaret, 11 p.m., $5

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62

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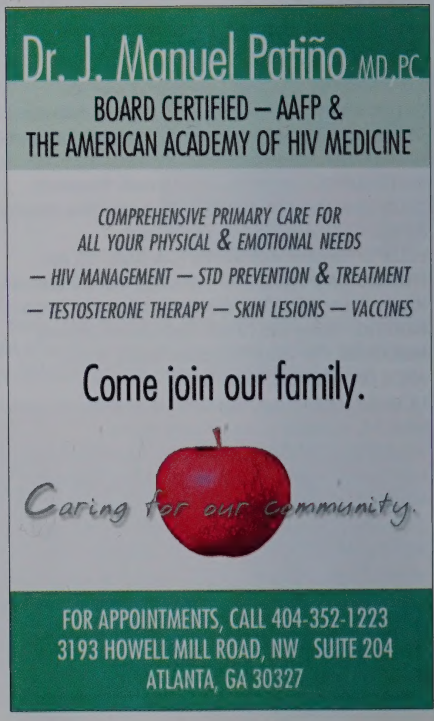
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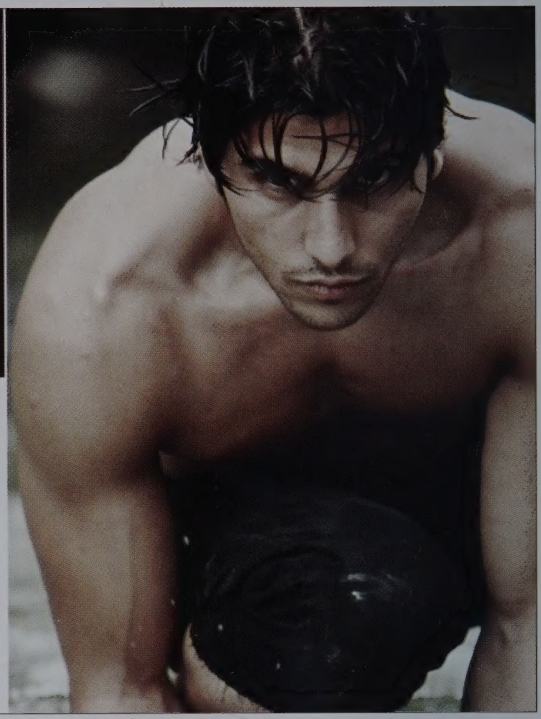

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57

SAT 12.16

AMSTERDAM. Dance floor open, 9 p.m.
BJ ROOSTERS. Start Here Saturday with Greg, Scotty and HotRod
BLAKE'S. Jealouse's Daring Divas weekly special guests, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. 'Saturday Showcase,' 11:30 p.m.
CLUB 708. Knockout Saturday. go-go dancers. 10p.m., 18 & up.
EAGLE. DJ Coqui
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Summer Fling drink specials.
FELIX'S. Mega Margaritas
HERETIC. DJ Brian Beck at 9 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Free Two Step lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. College Football
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz," 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. The MODEL Tzz Girls.
OSCARS. High energy videos w/VJ Das Wright, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Ladies Night with DJ Liz and drag kings
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRIPPS. 1st and 3rd Saturdays: Linda Michaels' "Showcase Showdown," 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m
WETBAR. Submerge party with guest DJ, $10 Cover

SUN 12.17

AMSTERDAM. T-Dance, 6 p.m. with guest DJ.
BJ ROOSTERS. Sundies in your Undies Eye Candy. The werking stiffs with BossMan Bobby and Greg
BLAKE'S. "Big Time!" drag revue with Shabazz, Jealousé, Myah Monroe, and guests.
BULLDOGS. Old school, house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Armorettes , 9 p.m.
CENTRAL PARK CLUB AND BISTRO. Grown and Sexy. Male review. 7pm. 5231 Memorial Drive
CHAPARRAL. Hip Hop Night with Maxine Blue, DJ Smash and The Dreams, 10 p.m.
CLUB 708. Afterparty, 18 & up, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
CLUB EUROPE. The Lion's Den Presents "Erotic Sunday's." Hip-Hp and R&B. 8 p.m. – 3 a.m.
FELIX'S. Bloody Mary's/Mimosas
FRIENDS ON PONCE. 'Family Reunion BBQ,' 3 p.m.
MISS Q'S. Free Pool.
RED CHAIR. WasUpNatl Fushion
STAGE DOOR. T-dance 3-6 p.m., 1st and 3rd Sun.: The Tuckerettes, 2nd and 4th: The Stage Door Divas.

MON 12.18

AMSTERDAM. Industry Night, 9 p.m.
BJ ROOSTERS. Strip Glow Pool or Come Watch.
BLAKE'S. Drag on the Edge with Princess Charles. 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Tyler, midnight.
EAGLE. Free pool.
FELIX'S. Martinis/Movie & Trivia, 8:30 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Free pool, noon to close.
HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Monday night football, drink specials
JUNGLE. Salsa dance class, $5, 7-10 p.m. "Stars of the Century" w/Niesha Dupree, 11 p.m. $7 cover.
LeBUZZ. "Lady LeBuzz" kings and drag

queens with Heather Daniels, 10 p.m.
MARQUETTE. Peek-a-boo male review. 18 & up, 10pm. 868 Simpson Road.
MARY'S. "Jump Start"with guest DJ's and video game showdowns.
MISS Q'S. Free Pool.
NICKIEMOTO'S. "Dragamaki" w/Bubba D. Licious, 8:45 p.m.
OSCARS. College Appreciation and Service Industry Night, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Dinner & Drag Show.
WOOFS. Texas Hold-Em.

TUE 12.19

AMSTERDAM. Showtunes, 9 p.m.
ATLANTA LIVE. Traxx's 'Thugged Out Tuesdays.'
BJ ROOSTERS. Tuffpuppy Tini Tuesdays.
BLAKE'S. "Family" Feud w/Mary Edith Pitts, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Mary Edith Pitts, 12:30 a.m.
CLUB 708. "Walk it In" Tuesdays, cash giveaway.
EAGLE. Free pool.
FELIX'S. Long Islanda Iced Teas
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Tini Tuesdays, martini specials
HERETIC. Free Pool & Darts 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. with DJ, 10 p.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Free beginner Two Step, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Bingo with Tom and company, 8 – 10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke with Alexandria Martin, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. "Mary-oke" with CJ, 10 p.m.
MISS Q'S. Pool League
MODEL T. "069 Bingo" with Ken
OSCAR'S. Home of "Atlanta's Original Showtunes Tuesdays," 9 p.m.
STAGE DOOR. Texas Hold 'Em, 7:30 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. $5, 8p.m.
WOOFS Daily Food Specials.

WED 12.20

AMSTERDAM. All-day Long Island Tea specials.
BJ ROOSTERS. Werk it Gurl with HotRod and Greg
BLAKE'S. "Brain Freeze" trivia w/Ruby Redd, 11 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Karaoke with Mary Edith Pitts, midnight.
CLUB 708. Mini Ball Runway
CHAPARRAL. Bad Boys with host Maxine Blue.
EAGLE. Service Industry Night
FELIX'S. Virtually Famous Karaoke, 9 p.m.
FRIENDS ON PONCE. Hump Day Party, music and fun.
GILBERT'S CAFE. Karaoke, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. 219 10th St.
HERETIC. Boys Night Out Dress Code Party with DJ Rick Walsh, 10 p.m., no cover
HOEDOWNS. Free Dance Lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Average Joe karoake contest
JUNGLE. Line dancing, 7-9 p.m., Guest performers, bartenders weekly Backdoor Party, 10 p.m.
LeBUZZ. "Les Girlzz of LeBuzz" drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Video request night.
MISS Q'S. Pool League
OSCARS. Comedy Night with VJ Das Wright, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Badd Boys at Midnight
STAGE DOOR. Trivia, 9 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. $5 - 8pm.
WETbar. Ladies' Night Out.
WOOFS Trivia Night, 8 p.m.

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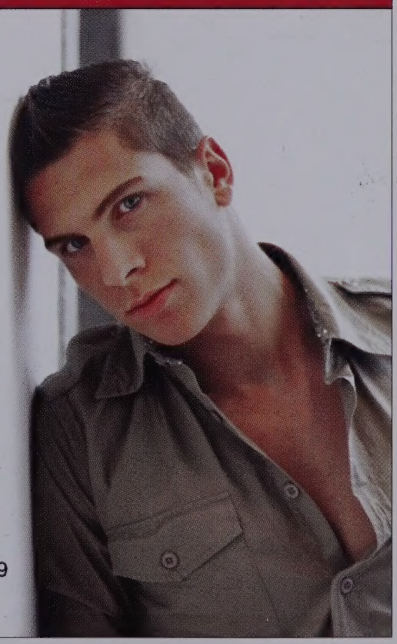

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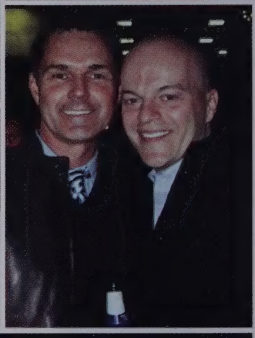
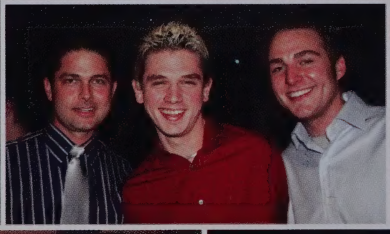

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ADVENTURES IN GAYLAND

Amazing things can come from a 'Coffee Date'

DO YOU LIKE SUGAR IN YOUR COFFEE? "Coffee Date" is a sweet comedy about two men who find they can be soul mates without being bedmates. In different ways, it's a revelation for both Todd (Jonathan Bray), who is heterosexual, and Kelly (Wilson Cruz from "Noah's Arc"), who is gay.

They meet when Todd's brother Barry (Jonathan Silverman) arranges a date for him online. Todd's trying to get back in the dating game after an ugly divorce, but Barry plays a joke on him by hooking him up on a gay website.

Todd realizes at once that Romancing the Bean is a gay café and that Kelly, with whom he's forced to share a table while both await blind dates, is not as out of place there as he is. But it takes them a while to realize they're there to meet each other.

By then, they've struck up a friendship. After all, they're both movie buffs and both coming out of relationships that ended badly.

They wind up going to a movie together. Then, to get even with his brother, Todd brings Kelly home and they make sex noises behind the bedroom door — a joke that yields positive and negative results.

Barry finally moves out of Todd's house, but he also tells their mother (played by wack-job Sally Kirkland) about Todd. She immediately flies to California for an indefinite visit. As she joins PFLAG and tries to adjust to having a gay son, Todd and Kelly continue seeing each other as friends, expanding Todd's gayrizons.

WORD THAT TODD IS GAY SPREADS THROUGH his workplace, thanks to Clayton (gay stand-up comic Jason Stuart), a fellow computer programmer who had been the token gay at the office — until Todd. No one believes Todd when he says he's straight — except Kelly, and he's still hoping for a change.

His new status makes Todd more interesting to Melissa (Deborah Gibson, whose old fans will be treated to a song at the end, along with a T-shirt homage), a co-worker he's been crushing on who dismissed him as "just another boring straight guy."

Another potential romantic interest for Todd is Bonnie (Elaine Hendrix), Kelly's housemate, "a gay man trapped in a straight woman's body."

IF THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH "Coffee Date," it's that Bray is too believable as "just another boring straight guy." He doesn't have

the ability of, say, Jack Lemmon or Jim Carrey to make ordinary interesting. Cruz is the same sweetheart he was on "My So-Called Life" and looks to have aged about a minute and a half since that show's run ended in 1995.

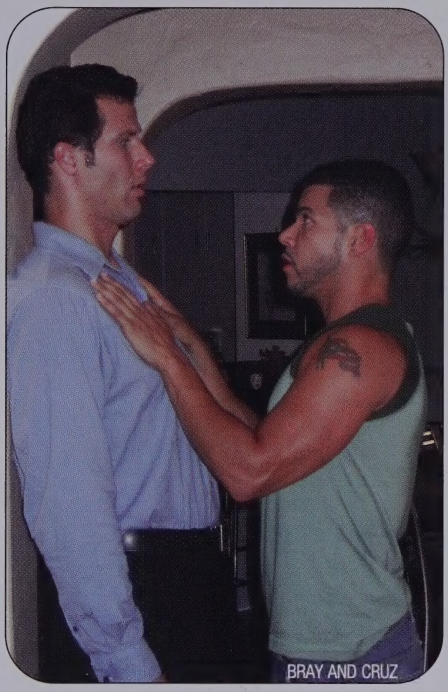
Writer-director Stewart Wade did a good job fleshing out "Coffee Date" from his 17-minute 2001 short. It could move a little faster, but it doesn't really seem padded.

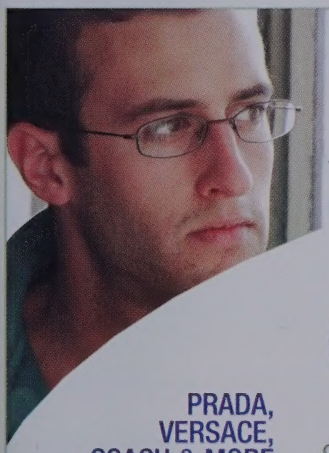
If most of the plot developments are reasonably credible at this pace, the screenplay must be pretty solid. Wade goes for chuckles rather than gut-busters, so you won't laugh loudly, but you'll laugh frequently.

The idea of inter-orientation friendships may be old news socially, but aside from the token gay neighbor, it's still a novelty in the movies. If "Coffee Date" is cutting-edge with a dull blade, it has a pleasant aftertaste.

You may find yourself appreciating it more a few days after you see it instead of straining to remember it, like many disposable gay comedies.

"Coffee Date" opens Dec. 15 at Midtown Art Cinema, 931 Monroe Dr., 678-495-1424.


BRAY AND CRUZ



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TREND-SETTING POP ICON RELEASES 'SWEET' SOPHOMORE ALBUM

BLENDING GENRES AND DEFYING preconceptions, Gwen Stefani's "The Sweet Escape" relied on an unlikely muse to aid in its creation: Maria von Trapp of "Sound of Music" fame.

"It's just a dream I always had," Stefani says, "to take 'The Sound of Music' — which is one my favorite, favorite movies of all time and stars one of my biggest inspirations, Julie Andrews — and put it on vinyl, since I've referenced it a million times for other things. There's just something about that film that's touched me over the years."

Stefani samples "The Lonely Goatherd" from the film's soundtrack for the lead single "Wind It Up." And yes, she actually yodels. The track is a tight, unlikely mixture of hip hop, Rodgers and Hammerstein, and a drum line (hearkening her smash, "Hollaback Girl").

Produced by the Neptunes, "Wind It Up" went through a metamorphosis before ending up on the album. Stefani took the original version by the Neptunes and commissioned a mash-up with "The Lonely Goatherd" for her 2005 L.A.M.B. fashion show. Against Pharrell's wishes, that version is the track that ended up on the album.

The video for "Wind It Up" turns "The Sound of Music" on its ear. It finds Stefani cavorting around stylized sets with her Harajuku Girls as von Trapp children, complete with dresses made from curtains.

THE STANDOUT TRACK ON STEFANI'S sophomore album is "Early Winter," written by the singer and Tim Rice-Oxley of Keane. The pair takes inspiration from Billy Idol's "Eyes Without a Face," Roberta Flack's "Killing Me Softly," and Cyndi Lauper's "Time After Time," with emotional, haunting and powerful results.

Two of Stefani's collaborations with Kanal are among the album's most ebullient tracks. "Fluorescent" chronicles a hot night on the dance floor and the subsequent hot time in the bedroom.

"Don't Get It Twisted" has a great opening line: "Don't get it twisted, don't get clever/ This is the most craziest shit ever." It's about Stefani missing her period and discovering she was pregnant with Kingston. An unlikely origin for a hot track, yes, but a damned good time nonetheless.

The title track is a funky combination of hip-hop and '60s doo-wop. It features Akon as the co-writer and guest rapper. The autobiographical "Orange County Girl" pays homage to Stefani's roots in No Doubt and her days growing up in the O.C.

Despite her desire to create new sounds, Stefani relies primarily on past collaborators, but the results are still fresh and exciting. Five of the tracks are penned by Stefani and Pharrell, three by Stefani and Kanal.

In addition to her collaboration with Rice-Oxley, Stefani also branched out in other directions, enlisting uber-songwriter Siedah Garrett ("Man in the Mirror" anyone?) on "Now

That You Got It." She reunites with prolific lesbian Linda Perry ("What You Waiting For") on "Wonderful Life."

PROVING SHE HAS MORE IN COMMON WITH Madonna than just blond ambition and trendsetting style, Stefani takes a page from Madge's book and releases her first live DVD along with "The Sweet Escape."

Directed by video maven Sophie Muller and recorded in her hometown of Anaheim, Calif., "Harajuku Lovers Live" documents Stefani's first solo tour and contains all the hits from "Love. Angel. Music. Baby." plus "Orange County Girl" and "Wind It Up."

In 2007, Stefani hits the road for the Sweet Escape Tour, an ambitious, 40-date spectacle across North America. All of this solo action must be depressing for fans of No Doubt, but Stefani's army of fans couldn't be happier.

"The Sweet Escape" is a spectacular album and forges new musical ground for the girl from the O. C. Let's hope the new tour is just as exciting as the first one, further cementing Stefani's place in the pop star stratosphere.

'The Sweet Escape' CD and 'Harajuku Lovers Live' DVD are available on Interscope Records. Check your local gay-owned retailer or www.gwenstefani.com

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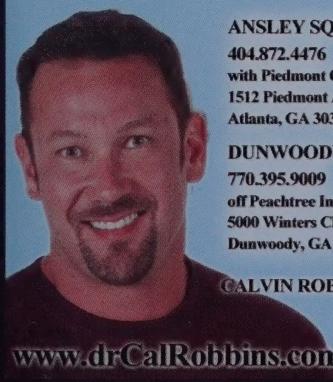

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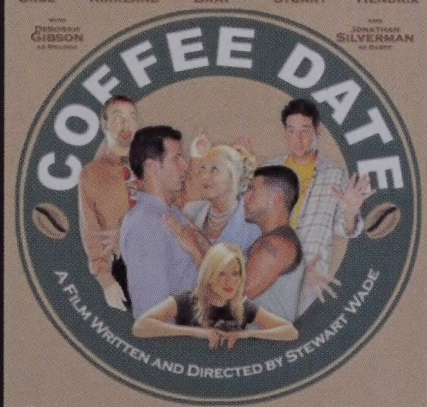

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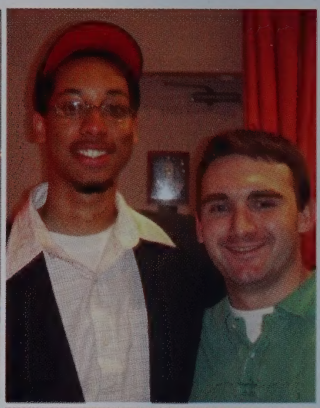

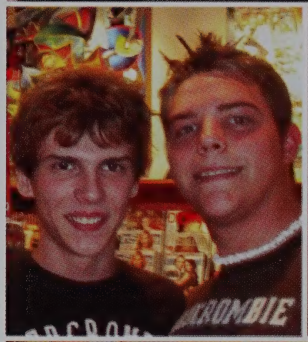

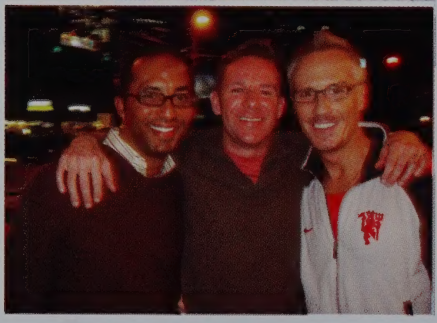

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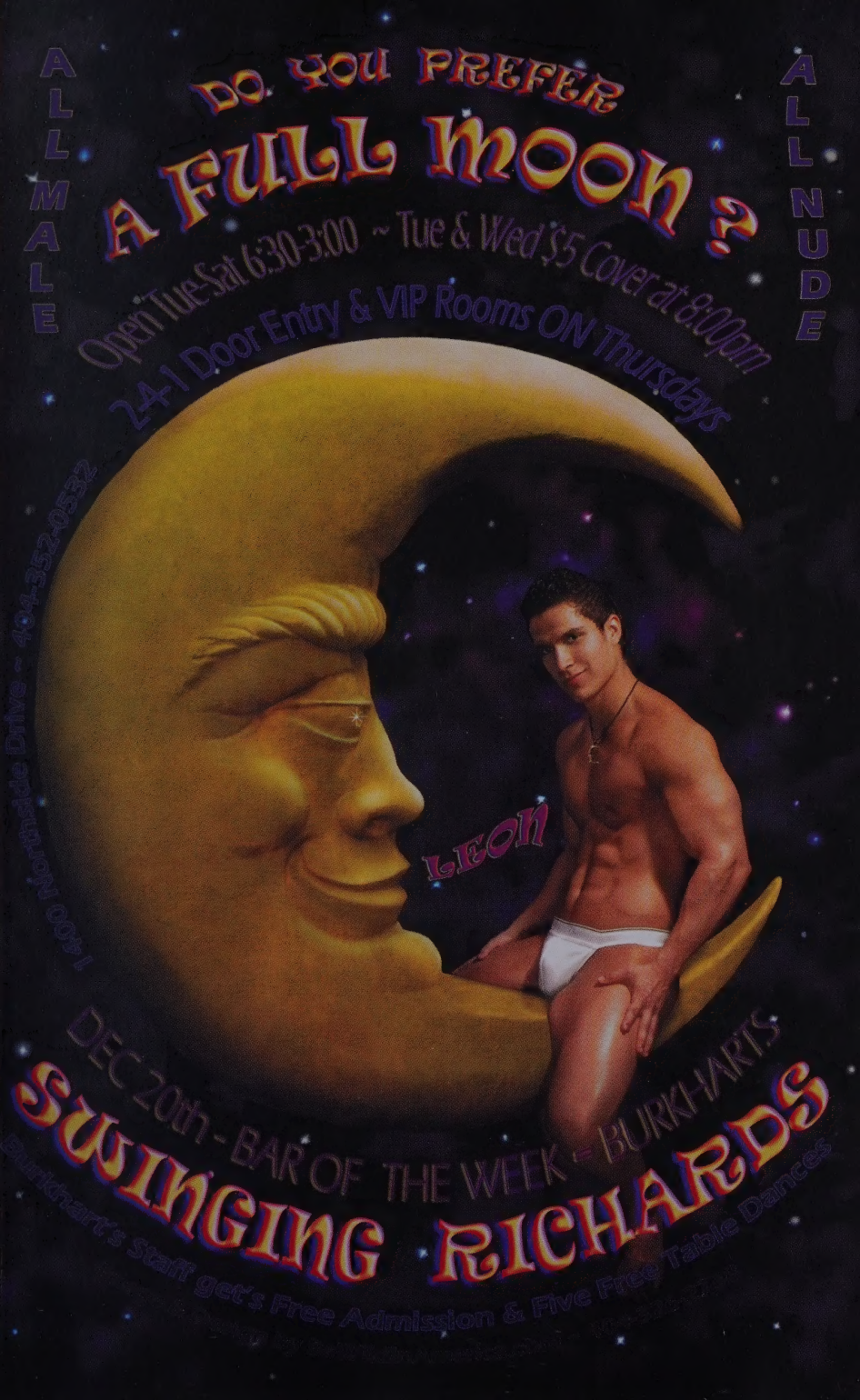
Angelica Diamonte

Juwanna Doome

Nicole Paige Brooks

Tequila Mockingbird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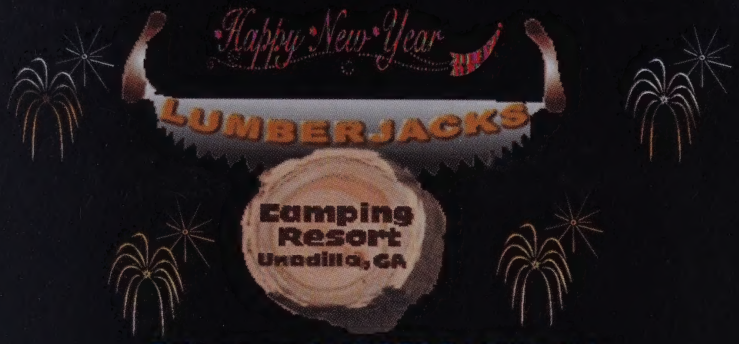

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NEED WOOD? BY WOODY MILLER

SQUINCH YOUR STARFISH

Seven tips to being sensational in the sack

HEY WOODY!

I recently came out, so I don't have a lot of sexual experience. I'm not too confident in bed, and my self-esteem collapsed after I went home with a guy who told me I was the worst lay he'd ever had!

I don't necessarily want to be the 'town pump,' but I do want fingers to be pointed at me when somebody asks who gives the best head. What can I do to get better in bed?

— EAGER BEAVER

DEAR EAGER:

We've all been there. When I first came out, I remember a guy telling me, "You were laying so still I thought, ok, either he's dead or my watch stopped."

Today, I'm happy to report that I've become so good in bed that when I'm finished the neighbors have a cigarette.

We were born with the ability to have sex, but not good sex. Like anything else, licking your partner cross-eyed is an acquired skill. If you want to go from dud to stud with a bud, then learn the seven secrets to great sex:

1. Move! Be active in bed. Don't lie there like a wilted plant waiting to be watered. Get on top, race to the bottom, fake right, go left and keep moving. No matter what you're doing, don't do it very long or very often.

2. Spend twice as much time on foreplay than sex. Why don't gay men blink during foreplay? They don't have time. So slow down. Tongues and hands can do much more than erect penises.

3. Go to the Sex Gym Every Day. It's not far. Look down—it's in your pants. Contract and release the muscles in the pelvic floor. They're the ones you use to stop yourself from peeing when a hot guy does the unthinkable in a bar and smiles at you.

Do the "Butterfly" (contract and release quickly, dozens of times), and the "Clinch and Hold" — squinch your starfish for a minute at a time. The thing is, you gotta do this daily for a month before you start seeing results. It'll be worth it, though. You'll last longer, have stronger erections and more powerful orgasms.

4. Make Your Mouth A Saliva Factory. Nothing feels better than a hot, wet tongue. Except for a big, hard... well, I digress. Here are a couple of tricks to make your mouth wet enough to wanna put things in: Put the tip of your tongue to the back of the roof of your mouth. Can you feel the saliva pooling in the bottom of your mouth.

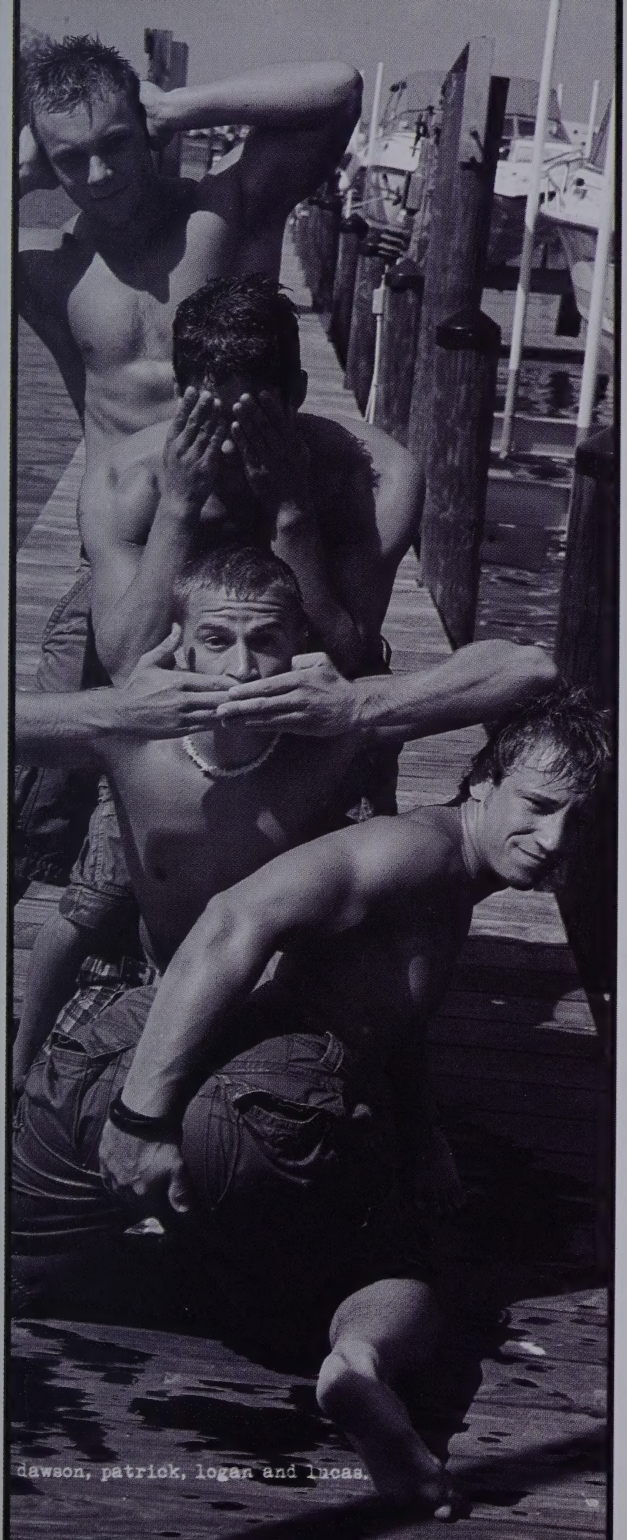
Other tricks: Think of biting into lemons. Or chew gum before sex—it'll stimulate the saliva glands. So will hard, sour candies. Sorry, Altoids don't work.

5. Make Sure Your Hands Go Up When You're Going Down. Always get in a position where your hands are free to double the mouth's pleasure. Wandering hands are the real secret to good head. Cup your fist against your lips and use your hand as an extension of your mouth. When you're going up and down, use a corkscrew motion.

6. Put it on Speaker Phone. Guys get turned on when their partner's turned on. Telling him he makes you moist isn't nearly as effective as showing him. So forget the words and go for the moans, groans and grunts. And don't forget the heavy breathing and loud slurping.

7. Expand, Explore, Experiment. Pick a role, try a position, act out a fantasy. Be adventurous. And don't believe that bullshit about trying everything once. Try it three times. Because you'll get it wrong the first time, you'll feel awkward the second time, and you might feel awesome the third time.

Woody is the author of 'Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon.' Reach him at needwood@mac.com.



dawson, patrick, logan and lucas.

...nothing evil about the boys goofing around.

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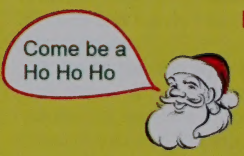
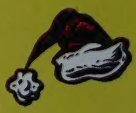
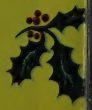
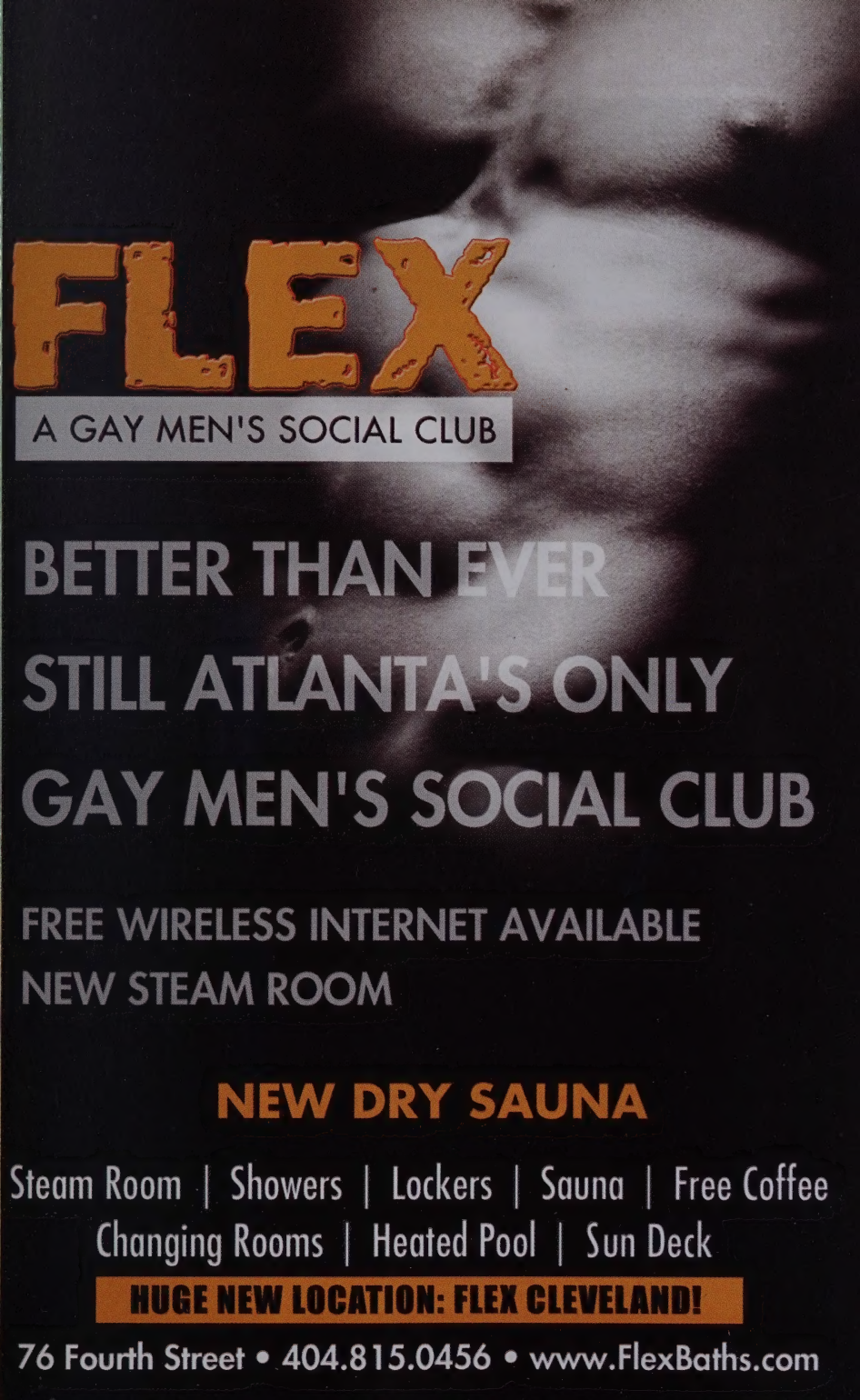
Saturday Dec. 30th - Pre New Year's Eve Social
Sunday Dec. 31st - New Year's Eve Bash





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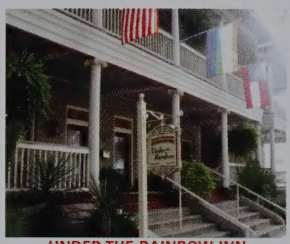

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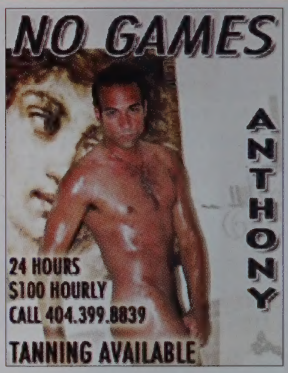

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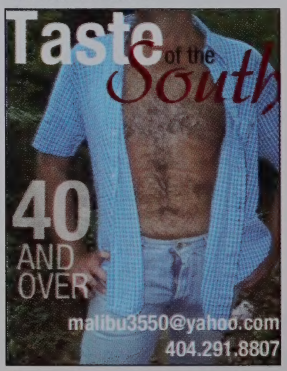

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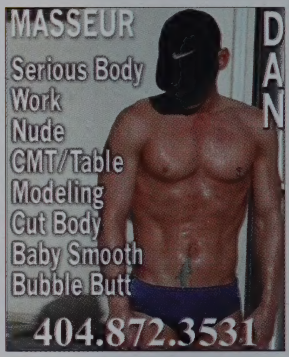

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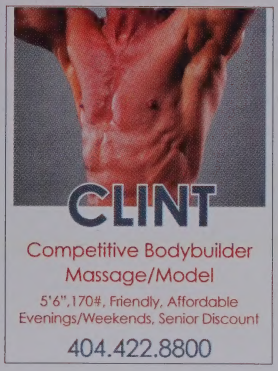

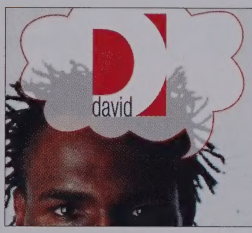

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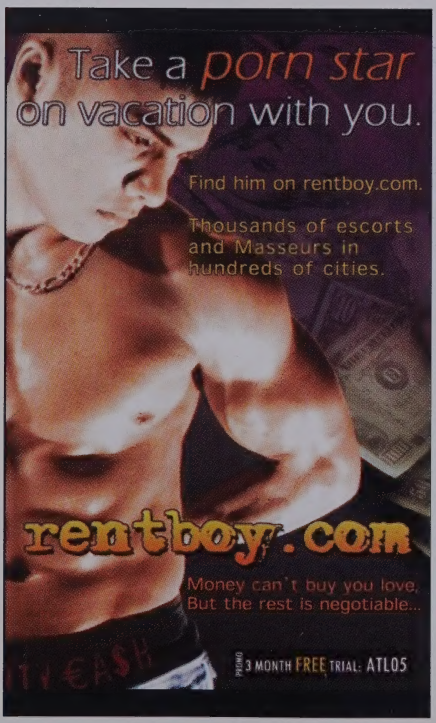
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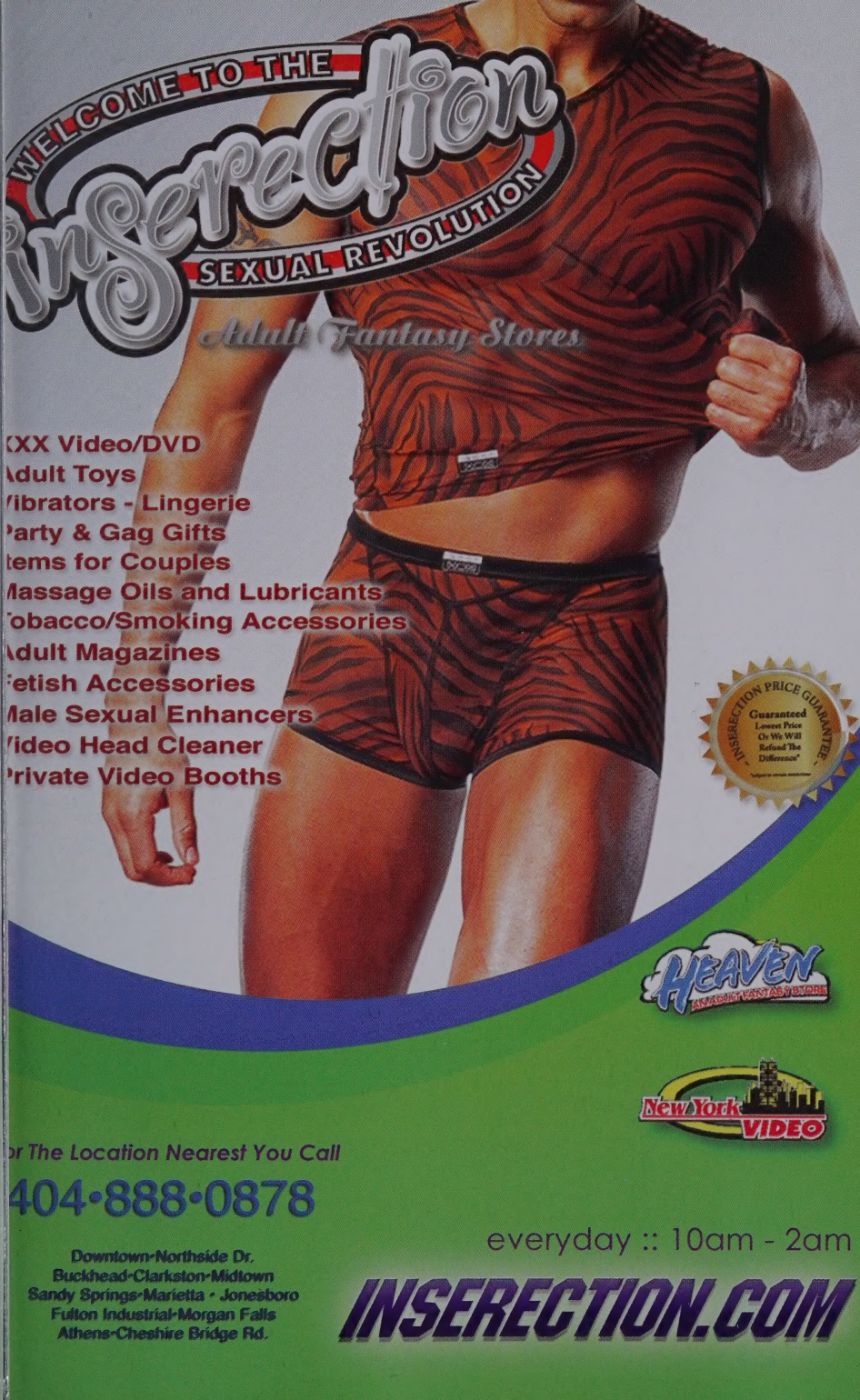
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BITCHSESSION

Don't give me that 'U-Haul ahoy!' look in your eyes at the club. We're just dancing, and that's it.

Yes I have a faux hawk, and yes it's because I have a bald spot. I also have balls, which apparently you lack, or you would have told me how you feel face to face.

For those who wonder why some poz people are "hostile," try this: Place an honest personal ad with "Healthy poz here... I do not bareback...," wait for 20 responses, and see if you get less than 90-percent instant rejections.

"Nothing says 'he's just not that into you' quite like a text message."

How come older guys won't talk to me unless they want to have sex with me? And when I do have sex with them, even though they say it was great, they pretend they never met me the next time they see me?

I can't believe how many "happily partnered" couples are pursuing extracurricular activities online. I think the song was wrong. It seems that "Two is the Loneliest Number."

What's up with you people who say bad things that aren't true about good people? Y'all need to get a life and quit downgrading others to make yourself look better.

How dare you have a problem with me wearing a kilt when you and your boyfriend both have wives and children.

To the guy who wonders why incredibly hot guys settle down with frumpy old men who never go out: Perhaps they're sick of shallow guys and cracked out bar bitches. Jealous much?

I hate hanging out with you and your friends because you perpetuate the fucked-up stereotype that all gay men are prissy little fags. Maybe after you get a personality that's worth a damn, we can be friends.

Oh, why can't we bring back the worship of all those hot Greek gods and goddesses?

If you're over 30, don't wear necklaces from the young men's collection. And unless you have a body Michelangelo would sculpt, keep your shirt on. If you want to play dress-up and pretend you're young and hot, do it at home.

I really don't like it when someone sets up a date and then cancels at the last minute without a good explanation. It's just rude and it pisses me off.

To you HIV-negative guys who instantly reject anyone you know is HIV-positive: If you were logically consistent, you'd require all of your dates to take an instant HIV test.

I understand a lot of us have been wounded by "the church." But must we damn all "churchgoers"? There are many churches whose "goers" accept, affirm and love GLBTs in response to the command "Love thy neighbor as yourself."

Now that Lance Bass is officially out and we know that his boyfriend is Reichen Lehmkuhl, there is also no doubt about who is the bottom in that relationship.

Having just moved to a "transitional neighborhood," I am amazed at the number of delinquent kids running around without adult supervision. I think any law banning gays from adopting kids should also ban non-working, irresponsible welfare dependent adults from procreating.

You say that having a simple conversation with me is like taking a deposition. You might come to a different conclusion if having a simple conversation with you weren't like being deposed.

I overheard you saying that now that you've turned 20, no one will want to date you. If that's the case, stop hanging out with pedophiles. I'm old enough to be your father, and I get cruised all the time.

In September 2001, someone offered me a bump of tina and I said yes. Since then, my life fell apart twice, a friend of mine murdered someone and now is dying in prison with AIDS. I have many friends who are now HIV positive and homeless because of PNP. It really is "life or meth." There is no in between.

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5 FRIDAY
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